



Tree Trimming

The Public Service Commission of South Carolina recognizes the importance of SCE&G properly maintaining vegetation around its power lines and requires that such maintenance be performed. Trees, brush and vines that grow too close to power lines can threaten the safety of SCE&G crews and customers.

To ensure the safe and reliable delivery of electricity to our customers, SCE&G's on-staff foresters work with professional line clearing companies to trim and remove trees and brush near our facilities.

- In many cases, SCE&G trims according to an industry-consensus standard known as the ANSI A300 that directs future growth away from power lines by trimming limbs that are growing toward the wire, while leaving the remaining limbs. This standard was created through a consensus of representatives from the residential and commercial tree care industry, the utility, municipal and federal sectors, the landscape and nursery industries and other interested organizations.
- ANSI A300 pruning typically results in trimming only limbs that are growing toward the power line. This trains the tree's future growth away from the line, thereby helping to keep maintenance costs and future pruning to a minimum. Although the tree's appearance may be a bit unusual after the initial pruning, it will quickly improve with time. Shaping or "rounding over" of trees is actually very unhealthy for the tree because the additional pruning cuts can result in decay.
- SCE&G trims trees in neighborhoods on a scheduled cycle as part of its routine system maintenance. Tree trimming improves system reliability more than any other maintenance activity; however, trees and limbs can still interfere with power lines during severe storms.
- SCE&G only trims limbs that vigorously rub against the service line running to homes and businesses. Limbs not vigorously rubbing against this wire will not be trimmed.
- A minimum of approximately 20 feet is trimmed above the distribution power line, while a minimum of 10 feet is trimmed to the side and below distribution wires. These distances provide the necessary clearance to safely operate the lines and reduce the chance of rain, wind or ice pushing or breaking limbs into the lines.
- It's important to note, SCE&G does not clean up debris from dead trees, debris from storms, nor does it cut down live or dead trees on the service line. SCE&G will disconnect service to that line at no cost to allow property owners to safely remove such limbs or trees.
- Proper planting and tree selection is important in order to prevent future problems. We ask that you consider the tree's mature height and spread when selecting trees and deciding where to plant them.
- In South Carolina, state law requires that you notify your utilities or the Palmetto Utility Protection Service (PUPS) at least three working days before beginning any type of excavation project, including planting trees or shrubs. You can reach PUPS at 1-888-SCI-PUPS (721-7877). This service is free of charge. For additional information, visit <http://www.sceg.com/en/residential-services/customer-service-center/public-safety/call-before-you-dig/call-before-you-dig.htm>.