

## **Tree Trimming and Removal**

**We all depend on safe, reliable electricity to power our homes and business. We also, depend on our trees to give us shade in the summer and winter breaks from winter winds. It should be kept in mind that Fulton Electric System started trimming/removing eligible trees, without cost to the customer, about 50 years ago. During this time, we have removed hundreds of trees where the individual benefits would not offset the cost of removal, but when evaluated the total results, there is no doubt that the program has been cost effective.**

### **Trees and Power Lines:**

**Satisfied customers, dependable service, and the public's safety are the goals at Fulton Electric System. Trees that are not in danger of causing power outages or damaging Fulton Electric System property will not be trimmed or removed. The following will explain what trees are eligible to be trimmed or removed.**

**These guidelines are provided in order that all property owners may be treated equally and fairly in our attempt to maintain a tree free right-of-way.**

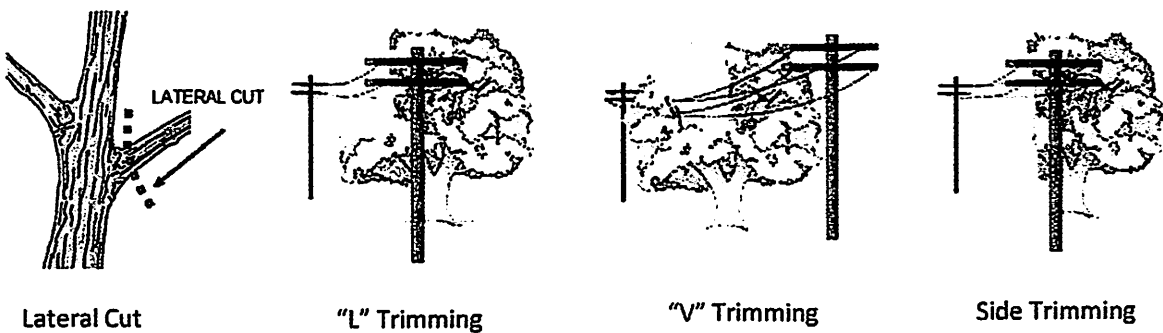
### **Why Trim Trees:**

**One reason for trimming trees is the safety factor. Trees conduct electricity, any tree that is close enough to encounter power lines could cause potential danger. For example, a child climbing a tree could potentially encounter the powerlines. Keeping line crews safe is another reason. When working on tree related outages we need the proper clearance so crews can make repairs. Service is yet another reason. If trees come in contact with lines, they can break lines, cause outages, and even cause fires. So, having clearance from poles and lines will help to maintain customer service.**

### **Why Lateral Trimming:**

**Fulton Electric System uses the Lateral Trimming Method which tends to direct growth away from the power lines. This method is recommended by the National Arbor Day Foundation.**

The "Rounding Over" Method of trimming stimulates uncoordinated growth and can threaten the life of a tree. Tree limbs that are cut in this way are more likely to break in wind and ice storms. By request of the property owner Fulton Electric System will occasionally round over trees but this method is not recommended by the utility.



**Clearance Guidelines:**

It takes approximately 2 to 3 years to complete a trimming cycle of our service area. For this reason, Fulton Electric System maintains a clearance of our lines to help assure service.

**1) Side trimming of transmission lines:**

**25' minimum**

**2) Overhang of transmission lines:**

**25' minimum**

**3) Side trimming of primary line:**

**15' minimum**

**4) Overhang of primary lines:**

**15' minimum**

**5) Pad mount Transformer:**

**3' clearance on each side**

**6' clearance on door side**

**6) Service Lines:**

**Over hang 3' or 6' side trim**

**No vegetation or vines can grow on Fulton Electric System poles or equipment.**

**At Fulton Electric System we strive to keep and maintain good public relations with our customers. Please read the following frequently asked questions below for more information.**

## **Frequently Asked Questions:**

### **Which trees will be trimmed?**

Most trees within falling distance of primary/transmission lines will have to be trimmed from time to time.

### **Who does the trimming?**

Fulton Electric System has our own in-house right-of-way crew that has been trained to trim trees the proper way to maintain the correct clearance.

### **Will you cut trees down on service lines?**

No, on lines that run from transformer to house, known as service lines, we will lower the line so customer can have tree cut down or removed. Then Fulton Electric System will reconnect the line at no cost to the customer.

### **What about trees cut down, will they be removed?**

We will remove all trees unless prior arrangements are made.

### **What about the stump, will it be removed after the tree is cut?**

No, unless prior arrangements are made.

### **What about in cases of emergency?**

If there is an emergency outage and crews must trim or cut trees to restore power to assure safety of the crew then no, Fulton Electric System will not come back to remove brush or trees.

### **What if I have a danger tree or emergency?**

An onsite visit will be made in such situation. If the tree is indeed a dangerous or emergency, it will be dealt with at the time. If the tree is not an emergency, then request and tickets will be worked when crews are in that area doing routine work.

### **What if I have more questions?**

Please contact Fulton Electric System at (270) 472-1362 for more information.