

Potomac Edison also promotes the practice of planting the right tree in the right place. Planting low-growing varieties helps eliminate the need for future branch pruning or tree removal.

While these tree care programs represent a significant investment, they are necessary to help enhance electric service reliability.

For additional information about Potomac Edison's vegetation management programs, or advice on planting compatible vegetation near power lines, go to [firstenergycorp.com/trees](https://www.firstenergycorp.com/trees). Or, call our Customer Care Center at **800-686-0011**.



# tree trimming around power lines

What you should know  
about our vegetation  
management program



In the electric utility industry, trees are a leading cause of power outages. FirstEnergy's operating companies – including Potomac Edison – have developed an award-winning tree care maintenance program that combines the best practices of certified arborists and foresters to keep vegetation away from power lines and other electric equipment.

We recognize the sensitivity of our customers and communities to this important aspect of enhancing service reliability, and we appreciate your support.

We maintain approximately 6,000 miles of distribution lines throughout our Maryland service area and prune or remove thousands of trees each year. However, when maintaining high-voltage transmission lines, we remove rather than prune trees on our right-of-way if they threaten the reliability of our system. Removal is done in accordance with existing easement rights. Areas near distribution or transmission lines should be clear of any vegetation that could cause power outages.

At least once every four years, Potomac Edison's line clearance experts inspect the distribution lines in neighborhoods. Plans are developed, customers are notified, and the work is done by certified tree contractors.

Typically, “directional pruning” is employed to keep trees away from distribution lines. This technique is the accepted industry standard and is promoted by the National Arbor Day Foundation and the International Society of Arboriculture.

Directional pruning is visually different from other techniques used in the past – such as topping or rounding – and is better for the health of the tree because it only targets those branches that grow into the utility space or could interfere with the electrical equipment.

However, when a tree cannot be pruned effectively without significantly impacting its health, then tree removal is considered. Our crews do not remove the stumps or roots of trees.

