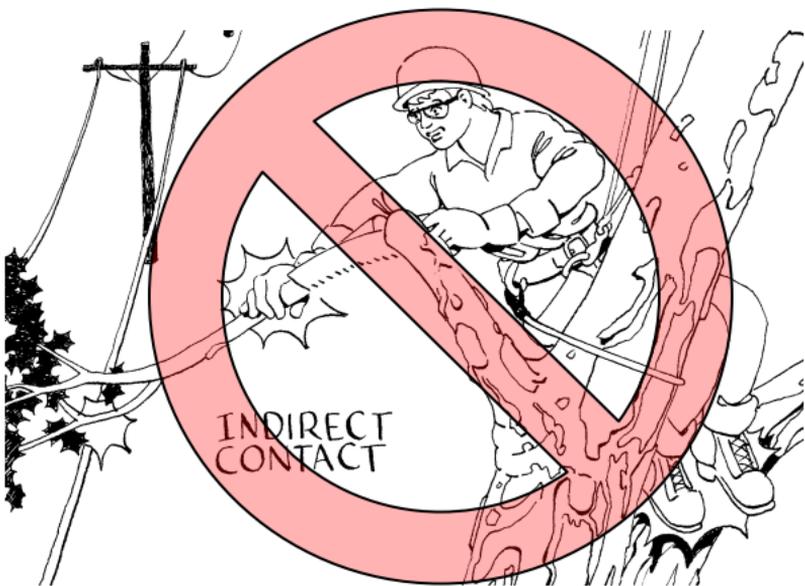


Quick Card

The Hazards of Indirect Electrical Contact

An electrical hazard exists when any tree worker, or a conductive object he/she may be in contact with, must approach closer than 10 feet to any overhead conductor. Indirect contact through a tree limb, a conductive tool, an aluminum ladder, other conductive equipment, etc. may lead to serious or fatal injury.



Potential Hazard Situations

- Pruning or removing trees near energized conductors.
- Using conductive pole tools.
- Using conductive ladders.
- Using conductive lift devices or materials handling equipment.

Hazard Avoidance Practices

- The employer must assure that each employee has been trained to recognize and is appropriately qualified to work near any electrical hazard that might be encountered at a worksite.

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- A qualified person must inspect the worksite to determine whether an electrical hazard will be created before climbing, otherwise entering, or performing work in or on a tree.
- Non line-clearance personnel shall maintain a minimum approach distance of at least 10 feet from any overhead conductor.
- Only line-clearance tree trimmers or line-clearance tree trimmer trainees shall be assigned to work where an electrical hazard exists. Line-clearance tree trimmer trainees must work under the direct supervision of line-clearance tree trimmers.
- Branches contacting energized conductors must only be removed by qualified individuals using non-conductive equipment.

Electrical Hazard Abatement

When tree work cannot be safely completed with the line energized, the arborist must stop work on that assignment until an *electrical hazard abatement plan* is implemented.

An electrical hazard abatement plan may include a request for the utility to de-energize, test, and ground the electric supply lines at the worksite.

For non-line-clearance tree workers, the electrical hazard abatement plan may require they hire a line-clearance contractor to perform the work.

For Further Information

TCIA: www.tcia.org

OSHA *Tree Care Industry Safety & Health Topics*
Page: <http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/treecare/index.html>

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