



SETTI D. WARREN
MAYOR

URBAN FORESTRY

A division of
NEWTON PARKS AND RECREATION

124 Vernon Street, Newton, MA 02458

newtonforestry@newtonma.gov

Office: (617) 796-1530

Fax: (617) 796-1512



ROBERT J. DERUBEIS
COMMISSIONER

Electric Utility Pruning Standards

Notification Procedures

- Each property owner in the area where utility lines are to be trimmed must be notified no less than fifteen business days prior to the work occurring. This notification shall provide a general timeline for the work, the name of the contractor performing the work, the location(s) of the work, contact information for the public and an explanation why the work is being done. This notification can be in the form of a letter or informational packet either mailed or hand delivered to each property.
- Daily the City through the City Arborist is to be notified of where the Contractor will be working and the number of crews. This notification shall be in the form of a phone call, email, or text message. A phone number must be provided to the City for the purposes of contacting the work crews in the field.

Trimming Procedures

The following requirements apply only to trees that originate from City owned property, including, but not limited to trees on City owned streets and trees on City owned land. Trees originating from private property, even if branches extend over City Property are not considered to be under the City's jurisdiction. The trimming of private trees is a matter to be handled between NStar and the owner of the trees. The City encourages NStar to seek permission from the private property owner to trim the owner's trees. The City cannot authorize the pruning of private trees.

- The City will allow the previously approved "8x8x12" air space from the uppermost and/or outermost primary conductors. Where there is a significant and major threat to the primary conductors we will consider a larger amount of air space where the size of the branches to be removed is less than two inches in diameter.
- All tree trimming shall be done by qualified tree workers with prior pruning experience.
- All tree pruning must at minimum comply with the most recent ANSI A300 Pruning Standards. This shall include, but is not limited to the following:
 - When branches are to be cut they must be pruned back to a branch at least one third the diameter of the branch being removed. The branch must be healthy and suitable.
 - No more that 25% of the tree's live canopy is to be removed.
- All work is to be supervised by a Massachusetts or ISA Certified Arborist. Weekly the Certified Arborist must inspect the work to insure it was done per this document's conditions. The Certified Arborist must inspect and documentation that the crews completed in an acceptable manor.
- No live branches larger than four inches in diameter are to be removed unless they are a clear and present danger to the electrical wires.
- Lateral branches originating from the main trunk of any tree with a strong central leader shall not be cut back to the trunk of the tree without the prior approval of the Director of Urban Forestry. The Director of Urban Forestry encourages that these lateral branches be reduced in length by pruning back to a suitable branch at least one third its size.
- The central leader of any tree shall not be cut or reduced in length without the prior approval of the Director of Urban Forestry.
- If greater than four bucket trucks performing line clearance work are to be operating in the City at any one time than a Massachusetts or I. S. A. Certified Arborist must be present on the job site at all times insuring that the City's standards are being met.

If the above conditions are not met the City may request that the line clearance operation be stopped until any issues are addressed to the City's satisfaction.