

This guide provides landowners with information about vegetation maintenance activities used by Hudson Light and Power.

Hudson Light and Power

Hudson Light and Power provide the transmission of electric power to more than 12 thousand customers in Hudson, Stow and surrounding areas.

Regular patrols and periodic maintenance help to keep the lines free of vegetation that could potentially cause a power outage or endanger persons living or working near electric transmission lines.

Hudson Light and Power continues to promote safety near transmission lines and respects the property of others by providing notification of our activities and by addressing landowner concerns as they arise.

Transmission Line Rights-of-Way

Hudson Light and Power has the legal responsibility to provide safe and reliable electric service. Public service laws establish responsibility and accountability for providing efficient, safe and reliable power within certain quality parameters. As such, vegetation management plays a critical role in transmission reliability.

Trees and Transmission Lines

Trees and transmission lines are not compatible. Trees that grow too close to electric transmission lines can conduct electricity and provide a path to ground, potentially causing an interruption and other significant consequences. Trees do not have to physically touch an energized power line to be dangerous. Electricity can arc or jump from a power line to nearby vegetation.

In addition to causing an interruption, this can also cause a wildfire and is very dangerous. Electric current flowing through a tree can electrocute anyone in close proximity.

Therefore, assuring trees remain clear of transmission lines is not only vital for service reliability but it is a crucial public and worker safety issue.

Right-of-Way Floor Vegetation Management

Hudson Light and Power uses shrub cutting machinery to remove small trees and shrubs from the rights-of-way. The remaining low-growing plant communities provide a stable vegetative cover resistant to the re-establishment of tall-growing vegetation. This also provides improved access, erosion control and improved wildlife habitat.

Our program focuses on complete removal of tall-growing vegetation. Pruning or topping vegetation is a short-term measure that does not provide the same benefits as removal. Topped vegetation poses a higher risk to reliability, safety and does nothing to foster a stable, desirable plant community as the topped trees vigorously sprout back and shade out the desirable plants, or they may die and fall on transmission lines.

Right-of-Way Edge Danger Tree Program

Our goal is to continually improve service reliability. To this end, trees that are growing along the edges of the right-of-way corridors are periodically pruned or removed.

Targeted edge trees are those with hazardous structural defects (e.g., cracks, cavities, decay, poor limb attachments) or are species with a history of failure (e.g., poplars, white pine). Trees leaning toward transmission lines are also hazardous. Research and experience

have shown that it is prudent to remove these trees before they cause an interruption. As the work is carried out, our crews will make every reasonable attempt to protect private property. Disruption to roadways, soil, fences and gates are avoided as much as possible. Any damages are repaired within a reasonable amount of time after the disturbance.

Cut tree branches are diced and left to decompose. Stumps are cut as low to the ground as practicable. Any useable wood, such as larger limbs and/or logs, remains along the right-of-way edge for the landowner.

Landowner Use of Transmission Rights-of-Way

Due to the potential safety and operational issues cited earlier in this guide, it is imperative that Hudson Light and Power manage its rights-of-ways to ensure that only compatible uses are allowed. Existing land uses such as cropland, gardens, lawns and pastureland are compatible with our transmission line rights-of-way, provided that our vehicle access is maintained. However any new or expanded usage within any right-of-way requires the prior written authorization of Hudson Light and Power.

Unauthorized use of Hudson Light and Power's transmission rights-of-way such as planting trees, cutting or pruning trees, constructing structures, stockpiling materials, excavating or operating heavy equipment all pose a threat to reliability as well as personal and public safety. Unauthorized use could result in the removal of structures or other personal property at the expense of the property owner.

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We ask that prior to engaging in such activities on our transmission rights-of-way that landowners contact Hudson Light and Power to discuss and review the proposed activity. This notification is required to prevent future dangerous conflicts with the electric transmission lines and possibly save lives.

Landowner Cooperation

Landowner cooperation is critical to the success of Hudson Light and Power's vegetation management program. In order to keep its transmission corridors safe and to prevent injury, property damage, environmental damage and unauthorized use of rights-of-way, Hudson Light and Power attempts to communicate and cooperates with owners for crew access, maintenance activities, tree removal and security. Hudson Light and Power also realizes the importance of understanding the needs and sensitivities of all property owners.

“...assuring trees remain clear of transmission lines is not only vital for service reliability it is a crucial public and worker safety issue.”

Still have questions?

Customer Service
978-568-8736

Or e-mail us at:
info@hudsonlight.com

www.hudsonlight.com

**This is an important notice.
Please have it translated.**

**Questa è un'informazione importante,
si prega di tradurla.**

Hudson Light & Power Department

**NOTE: Work is scheduled for the
transmission line right-of-way that is
adjacent to or crosses your
property.**



**Information for Landowners
along our Transmission Lines**