

Electrical Hazards & Climbing

Job Steps Affected by Today's Topic

- Climbing around electrical conductors:
- ascending
 - pruning
 - other tree operations
 - roping limbs

Potential Hazards/Risks

- Electricity
- All energized conductors

Action Steps

If climbing a tree will bring you or any conductive tools you are using within ten feet of a conductor, any conductor:

- ▶ Be sure you are a qualified line-clearance arborist or line-clearance arborist trainee.
- ▶ Be sure you can perform an aerial rescue and regularly practice aerial rescue techniques.
- ▶ Try to maintain visual or voice communication with your co-workers at all times. Remember, near conductors carrying more than 750 volts, you must do this.
- ▶ Never work with your back to a conductor.
- ▶ Never crotch-in over a conductor, or position yourself so that you might swing into a conductor. Climb the side of the tree opposite the conductor.
- ▶ Make sure all limb- or tree-removal operations can be completed without touching conductors. Use ropes or cut back limbs first, if necessary.

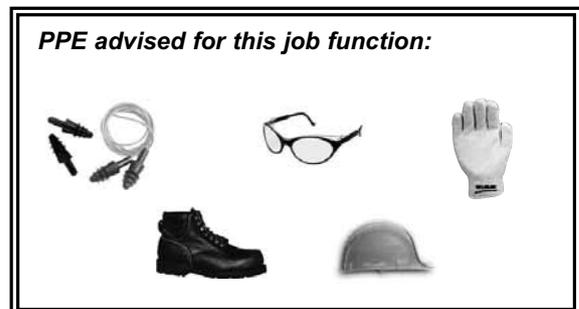


Above: Phase-to-phase indirect contact.

- ▶ Never assume any conductor is de-energized unless there is a utility representative on site to verify it.
- ▶ During operations, keep all rescue gear out of the truck and available on the work site.

What else can you do to prevent injuries

Continued on back



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Above: Phase-to-ground indirect contact.

Complete the following:

Name: _____ Date: / / Signature: _____

Multiple Choice Instructions: Select the one statement that best answers each question.

True or False Instructions: Indicate if the statement is true (a) or false (b).

1. When does an electrical hazard exist?
 - a) when conductors pass through the tree or within 10 feet of any part of the tree to, be worked on
 - b) when an energized conductor passes over a tree
 - c) when the tree is under a conductor
 - d) when the utility company is servicing or repairing the conductors
2. Only a(n) _____ SHALL be assigned to tree work if it is found that an electrical conductor passes in proximity to a tree.
 - a) qualified arborist
 - b) qualified line-clearance arborist or trainee
 - c) employee of a utility company
 - d) lineman
3. Who is a qualified line-clearance arborist or arborist trainee.
 - a) a person with on-the-job experience or related training
 - b) person familiar with the hazards involved in line clearance tree trimming
 - c) a person with demonstrated ability to perform the special tasks involved
 - d) all of the above
4. How close can a non-qualified line-clearance arborist come to an electrical conductor?
 - a) 2 feet
 - b) 5 feet
 - c) 7 feet
 - d) 10 feet

5. Previous experience as a qualified line-clearance arborist alone does not qualify the tree worker to work in a tree where an electrical hazard exists.
 - a) True
 - b) False
6. Only tree workers employed by a utility company can become qualified line-clearance arborists.
 - a) True
 - b) False
7. Under all circumstances when an electrical hazard is nearby, even more than 10 feet from the work area, extreme caution must be used.
 - a) True
 - b) False
8. It's OK to assume that the work site is safe when an electrical conductor is present, if you are a qualified line-clearance arborist.
 - a) True
 - b) False
9. Previous experience and documented training may qualify a person to work proximate to electrical conductors.
 - a) True
 - b) False
10. The reason for using extreme caution even more than 10 feet from an electrical conductor is because a limb or tool may swing and come in contact with an electrical conductor.
 - a) True
 - b) False