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We hope this information helps answer your questions and concerns about trees and power lines.

If you have a question not addressed in this pamphlet, please feel free to call us.

KU/ODP Customer Service

By telephone **(800) 981-0600**
Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

TDD (for the hearing- or speech-impaired) **Dial 711**

Visit our website at
www.eon-us.com

Number To Know

Locate Service **Call 811**
To find out where underground utility lines are located

If you would like additional copies of our "It's Time To Trim The Trees" brochure, call our Customer Service Department at **(800) 981-0600**

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 PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER



It's Time
To Trim
The Trees

SAVE THIS GUIDE



Our Tree Trimming Policy

This is the only notice you will receive this trim cycle, so keep this brochure handy to refer to it with any questions about our tree trimming efforts.

To ensure safe, reliable service, KU/ODP contractor crews come into your neighborhood about every four years to trim potential problem branches around power lines. We will be in your area soon. We want you to understand that all trees on a particular circuit are on the same trim cycle; we are not trimming only your trees, but the trees throughout your neighborhood.

When properly selected, planted and maintained, trees can add distinction and value to your property and to the entire neighborhood. Conversely, when they are planted without regard to surrounding space, or are not properly maintained, they can cause problems that grow worse each year—like unwanted shade, expensive removal fees, property damage, and hazards to people and other plantings, as well as disruption of utility service.

In fact, trees are the major cause of disruptions in electric service to our customers. But, by cooperating with our tree trimming crews, and by planning carefully before you plant a tree, you help minimize these power disruptions.

Why We Trim Trees

By trimming these trees before they cause an outage, we help create a safer environment and provide you with the reliable service you expect.

How Trees Cause Power Outages

A tree branch doesn't have to break to cause a problem. Limbs which have grown too close—and too far in—to power lines are responsible for many problems. Should these branches sway and touch the power lines, widespread outages or momentary short circuits will occur causing lights to flicker, clocks to stop and electronic equipment to malfunction.

Trees with branches extending over power lines need to be removed before they create a problem. Otherwise, these limbs can break and fall onto power lines during high winds or a snow or ice storm resulting in a power outage that could affect an entire neighborhood.

Correct Trimming Methods

Branches that grow toward the wires are pruned at places where the branches join with the trunk or with the parent branch.

This method is referred to as "natural target pruning" because it requires pruning cuts to be made along the same natural lines where a tree would normally shed a branch. The process involves cutting as close as possible to the branch collar without injuring or removing the collar. Stubs are not left in this method.

With this method, tree growth is directed away from power lines. It also reduces resprouting and minimizes suckering while encouraging the remaining tree to grow naturally.

Correct Cuts



Cutting at nodes



Trimming away from power lines



After top trimming



After through trimming



After side trimming

Incorrect Trimming Methods

While some tree owners request that we simply cut the top of the tree—a method referred to as "topping" or "shaping"—this is an incorrect method. Topping and shaping require numerous cuts between the nodes. This results in excessive sprouting, weak suckers, cracks, rot, dead stubs and eventually, disease and insect problems. Ultimately, this method shortens the life of the tree.

Incorrect Cuts



Between nodes



Topping or shaping

Work Is Performed By Experienced Professionals

We employ degreed, professional horticulturalists and foresters who are certified arborists by the International Society of Arboriculture. We also contract with professional line clearance tree experts specializing in tree trimming—but work is supervised by our trained staff to ensure the company's high standards are maintained.

How We Determine The Amount To Be Trimmed

The amount of trimming required depends on several things:

• Four-year Trimming Cycles

Most utilities in the Midwest trim on a four-year cycle. Tree limbs need to be trimmed far enough back from power lines so they won't grow back into the lines before the next scheduled trimming.

• Tree Location

Trees near high-voltage lines must be trimmed more extensively. The closer they are to the lines, the more trimming is necessary. In some of these cases, it may be aesthetically preferable to remove the tree altogether.

• Growth Rates of Trees

Fast-growing trees like black locust, box elder, elm, pin oak, silver or water maple, mulberry, catalpa, sycamore, wild cherry, willow, heaven tree or yellow poplar need to be trimmed more than slower-growing trees. These quickly developing trees can grow an average of 15 to 20 feet in four years.

Removal Of Storm Debris

Fallen trees and limbs can cause power outages during severe weather. KU/ODP line and tree crews make every effort to restore power in these cases as quickly as possible. Our crews, however, do not haul away debris from fallen trees or broken limbs on the customer's—or on adjoining—property as a result of our power restoration efforts.

Free Woodchip Mulch

KU/ODP offers free woodchip mulch—ideal for pathways and established woody plantings. The mulch is available only in dumptruck-load quantities (about two-and-a-half tons) and is not recommended for annuals, perennials or vegetables until it has aged for at least a year. Call us to find out more about our mulch giveaway program.