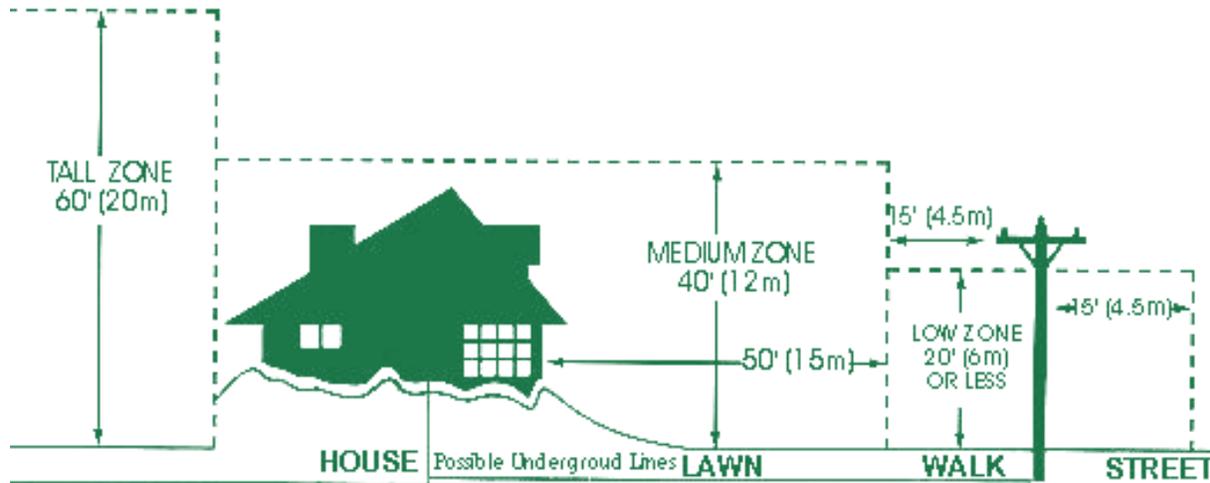


Tree Planting

Homeowners can avoid service interruptions, help reduce costs and maintain a pleasant environment by ensuring trees of the correct size and species are planted near power lines.

Recommended Distances when Planting Trees based on Mature Tree Height:



Why Does Wasaga Distribution Trim and Remove Trees?

Wasaga Distribution has an aggressive tree trimming program that maintains and removes trees and limbs along utility easements to prevent contact with high voltage electrical wires. The purpose of the program is to ensure public safety and to provide a reliable electrical service to all customers by preventing unscheduled power interruptions.

Safety

Anyone who prunes or climbs trees that are in contact with the power lines is putting themselves into potentially highly dangerous situations.

Trees and the ground around them may become energized when branches come into contact with the power lines.

Momentary contact between the tree and energized power lines could be fatal to anyone who is in proximity of the tree.

Reliability

Trees are a significant cause of power outages. Outages from trees are caused from branches rubbing on power lines, branches falling on power lines and trees falling across power lines during storms.

By trimming power lines on a regular schedule to a minimum clearance, Wasaga Distribution will eliminate predictable safety hazards and reduce tree related outages.

Legislation

The 1998, Electricity Act of Ontario requires that Wasaga Distribution maintain trees and brush to minimum clearance around its power lines. Ontario's Occupational Health and Safety and Regulations stipulate what those clearances are and what the safe limits of approach are for trained and untrained persons.

Access to Private Property

The Electricity Act of Ontario grants access for Wasaga Distribution under POWERS OF ENTRY 40 (4):
(4) A transmitter or distributor may enter any land for the purpose of cutting down or removing trees, branches or other obstructions if, in the opinion of the transmitter or distributor, it is necessary to do so to maintain the safe and reliable operation of its transmission or distribution system. 1998, c. 15, Sched. A, s. 40 (4).

Responsibilities

Minimum clearances are required between power lines and trees, branches and foliage. Homeowners are responsible to keep trees clear of the service line that runs into their homes.

Wasaga Distribution has the responsibility and the training to trim or remove tree inside of the power line corridor.

Limitation

Wasaga Distribution will only remove trees outside of the power corridor when these trees could fall into the power line and create a hazard.

Staff Qualifications

Wasaga Distribution uses highly skilled and specially trained staff and contractors to conduct any work inside the power corridor.

Tree trimming crews have the latitude to make site by site decisions regarding trimming of trees to maintain safety and aesthetics while achieving appropriate system clearances.

Contact

To report a concern about trees and power lines on your property call

Wasaga Distribution at (705) 429-2517

or email at hydro@wasagadist.ca