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# Overview PSEG Long Island Vegetation Management Program -- Municipal Outreach



## PSEGLI Mission Statement :



- To build an **industry leading electric company** dedicated to providing our Long Island and Rockaways Customers with **exceptional Customer Service**, best-in-class reliability and storm response as well as a strong level of involvement in the communities in which we live and work.



## Beginning January 2014, PSEG Long Island launched an enhanced tree trimming program.

The Vegetation Management Tree Trim program is PSEG Long Island's maintenance program for trimming approximately 9,000 miles of Primary lines along roadways and rear property.

- In 2014, we trimmed trees along 1,850 miles of distribution and 250 miles of transmission power lines.
- In 2015, we trimmed 1,740 miles of distribution and 250 miles of transmission.
- For 2016 & 2017, we will clear 1,700 - 2,500 miles of distribution and 250 of transmission power lines {contingent upon LIPA final budget determination}.



# Why Tree Pruning is Important

**System Reliability:** Trees growing near power lines significantly increase the chance of power outages.

- Trees can cause downed lines and power outages on normal weather days and during storms.
- Trees can also cause momentary interruptions of power and flickering.
- Trees can also extend the length of an outage to underground utility lines if they interfere with access to equipment.
- Tree pruning reduces the possibility of a tree coming into contact with high voltage power lines, resulting in sparks and fires.

## Public Safety:

- Trees can interfere with traffic signals and fire alarms and potentially pose a risk to our customers dependent on critical electronic medical equipment.
- Trees in close proximity to an energized line may pose danger to someone making contact if climbing the tree.



# Program Objectives

- To create a **larger buffer** between the power lines and nearby trees and eliminate more potential outage threats.
- Implement an enhanced trim cycle that keeps power lines clear **while maintaining healthy trees.**

For it's quality program, PSEG Long Island was awarded the 2014 Tree Line USA award by the Arbor Day Foundation and the NYS DEC.

- Once all circuits have been trimmed to the new, enlarged specification, circuits will be inspected and trimmed on a **4 - 5 year cycle.**



## Benefits So Far....



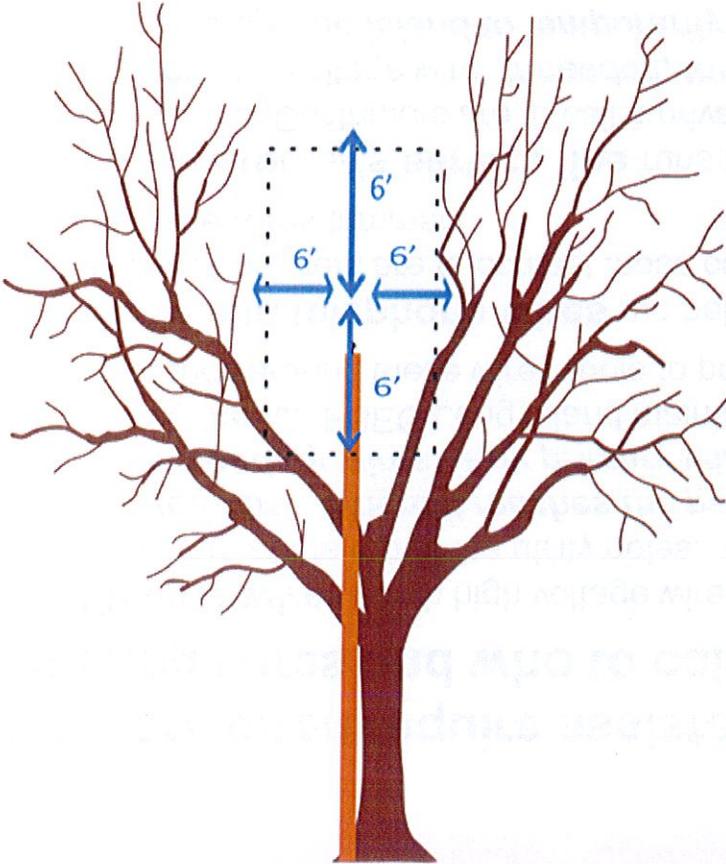
In 2014, the increased distribution line clearance immediately benefitted system reliability:

- Only 16% of Tree-Related Customer Interruptions occurred on circuits which were trimmed to the new specification.
- The number of customers affected by Tree-Related Outages for the circuits that were trimmed as compared to the previous year was **reduced by 60%**.
- System storm performance significantly improved.

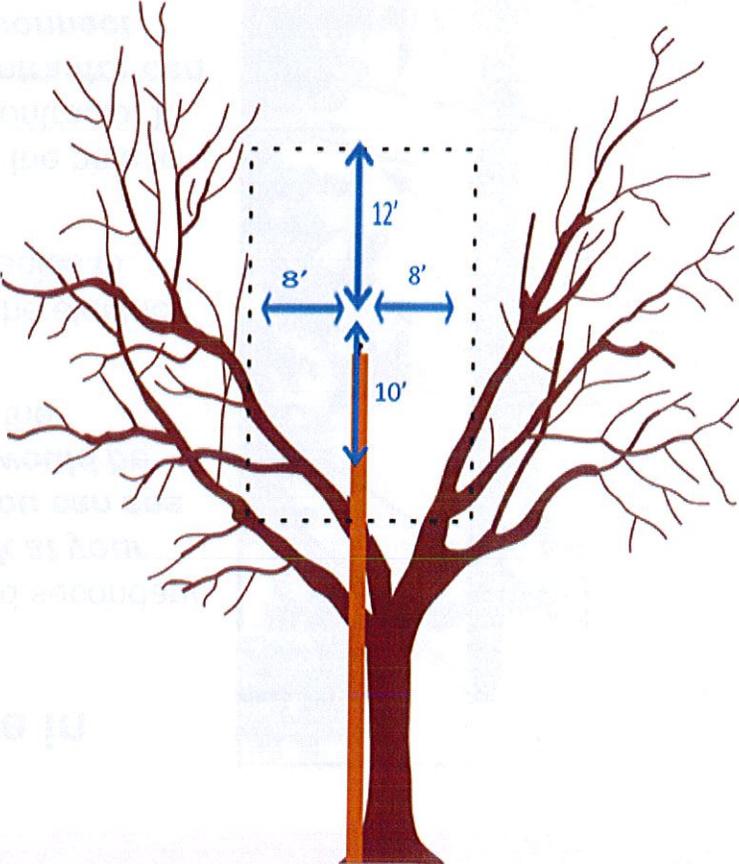
# Distribution Trim Program Standards



The new PSEG Long Island clearance zone is 8' to each side, 12' above, and 10' below the primary conductor(s). Secondary conductors are pruned to provide 3' of clearance.



Old: LIPA Specification 2013

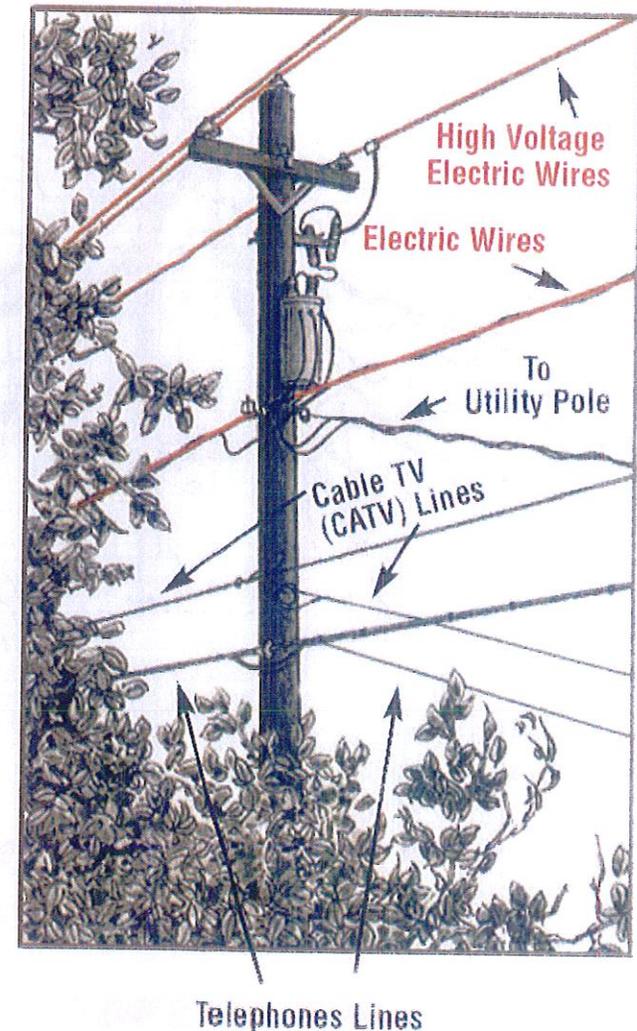


New: PSEG Long Island Specification

## Customers often require assistance in identifying wires and who to call

- **Electric wires** (both high voltage wires and secondary wires) are at the top of the utility poles. *Look at your service wire. Where it reaches the pole you can see the secondary wires. Any primary wires would be above those.* PSEG Long Island maintains the clearance around these wires (pole to pole).
- **Cable and telephone wires** run below the electric wires. Customers are to contact those companies to have the wires trimmed.
- **The customer's service line** runs from the pole to the house. Customers are to call a private contractor to trim this low-voltage wire. *If needed, the contractor can call PSEG Long Island to temporarily disconnect service to provide a safe work area.*

**1 exception:** if a branch is making hard contact with the service wire and might cause its removal from the house or pole, PSEG Long Island will trim just the responsible branch.



# Tree Circuit Trim Program Communications

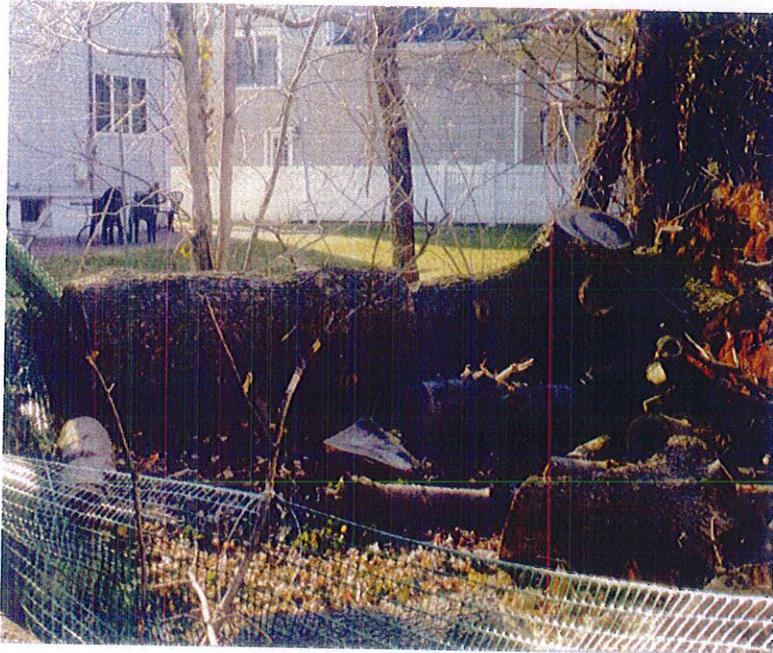
## Municipal & Customer Notifications for Circuit Trim

- We **meet with elected officials** in towns and villages before tree trimming begins.
- We **send letters and emails** to customers 2-3 weeks before tree trimming begins in their neighborhoods, letting them know when work is scheduled. The notification includes the Line Clearance Supervisor's name and phone number, the VM Manager's name and the PSEG Long Island Customer number.
- Typically, 2-3 days before we start work in each neighborhood, the **door hanger** shown on the right is placed on each customer's door, letting them know PSEG Long Island is trimming trees in their neighborhood.
- If we must enter private property to trim or pick up debris, our crews first **knock on the front door**. If the customer who answers expresses concerns, our crews make every effort to address them. Some customers who are home choose not to answer the door.



# Vegetative Debris Policy

- Our contractors remove vegetative debris and wood chips as part of PLANNED circuit work. All debris from circuit trims is removed by end of business day.
- We DO NOT remove debris for customer requested trimming or removals, outage related work, emergency work and during storm restoration.



This is what a customer's yard may look like after we make the tree removal safe for the contractor. The customer is responsible for the debris and may require a landscaper for larger limbs.

# Our Contractors

**PSEG Long Island T&D contractors are experienced tree professionals trained in proper techniques and safety**

## **Distribution Tree Trim Contractors**

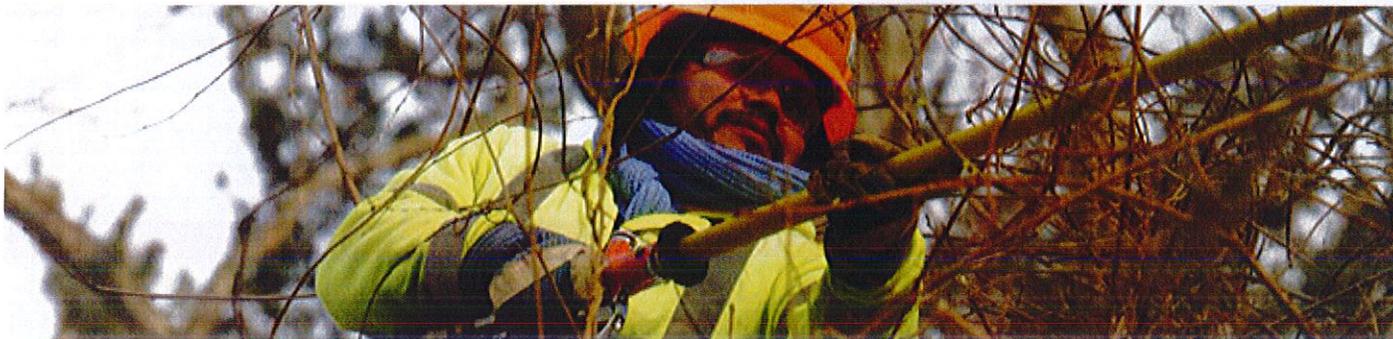
- Asplundh Tree Expert
- Harder Services
- IPC Contracting Corp.

## **Transmission Tree Trim Contractors**

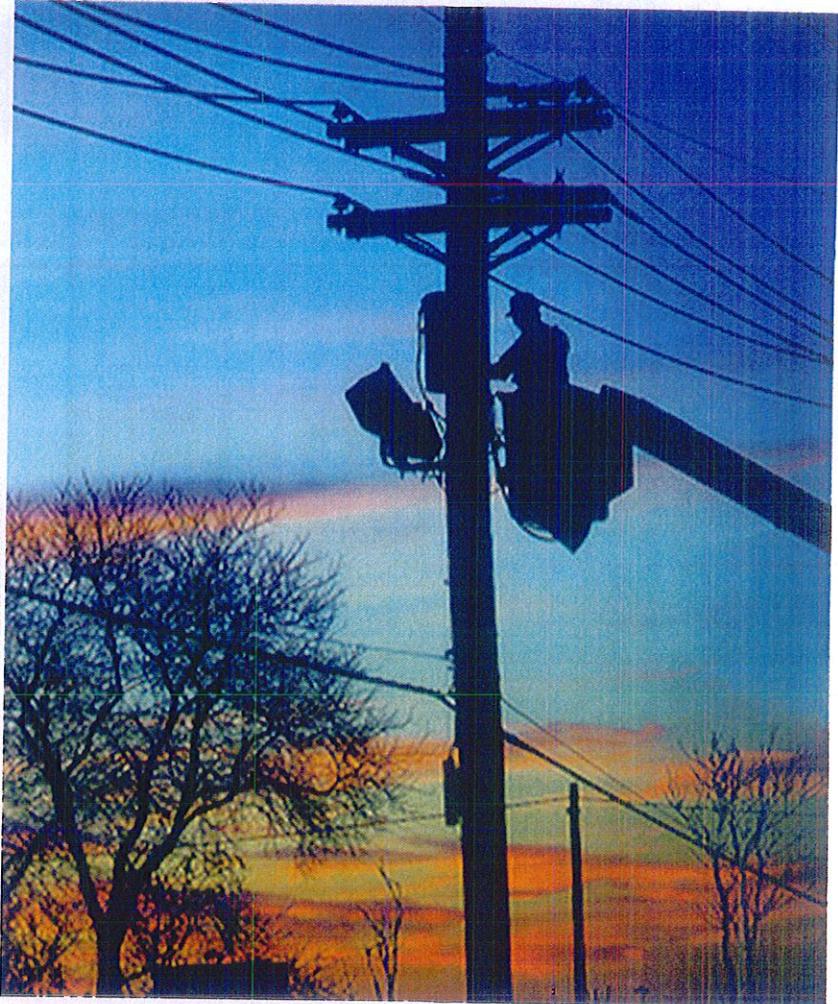
- Asplundh Tree Expert
- All Reliable Services
- IPC Contracting Corp.

## **Grounds Maintenance Contractors**

- Deangelo Brothers
- Green Velvet Landscapers



Thank you.



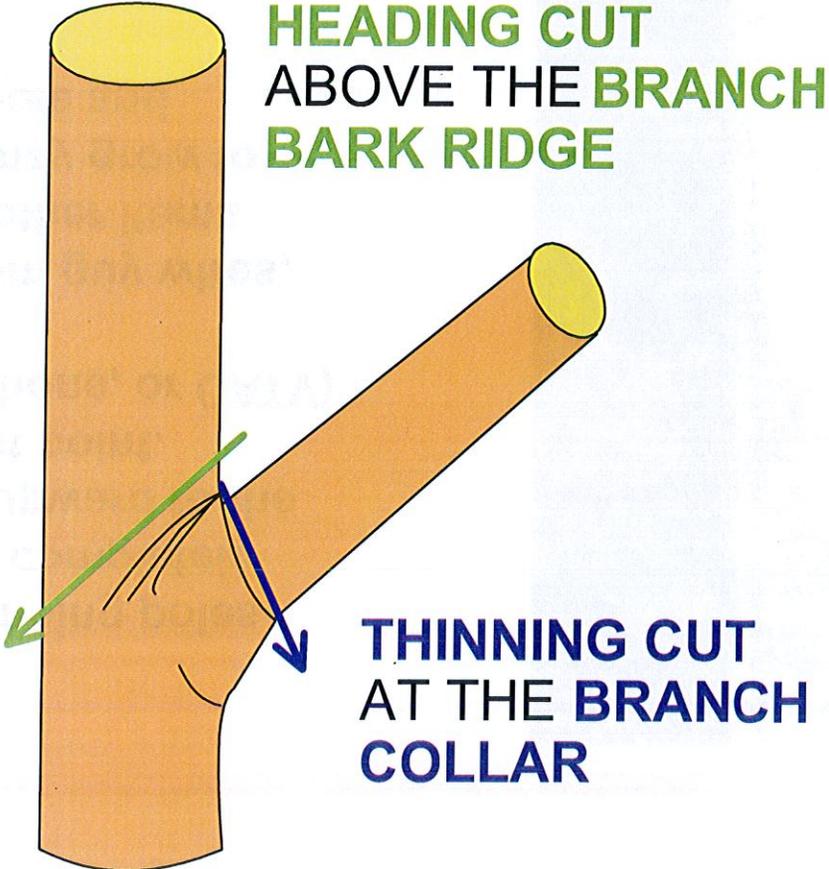
# Appendices

## What is “Directional” Pruning?

When we trim a tree near your home or business, the technique most commonly used is one called “directional trimming.”

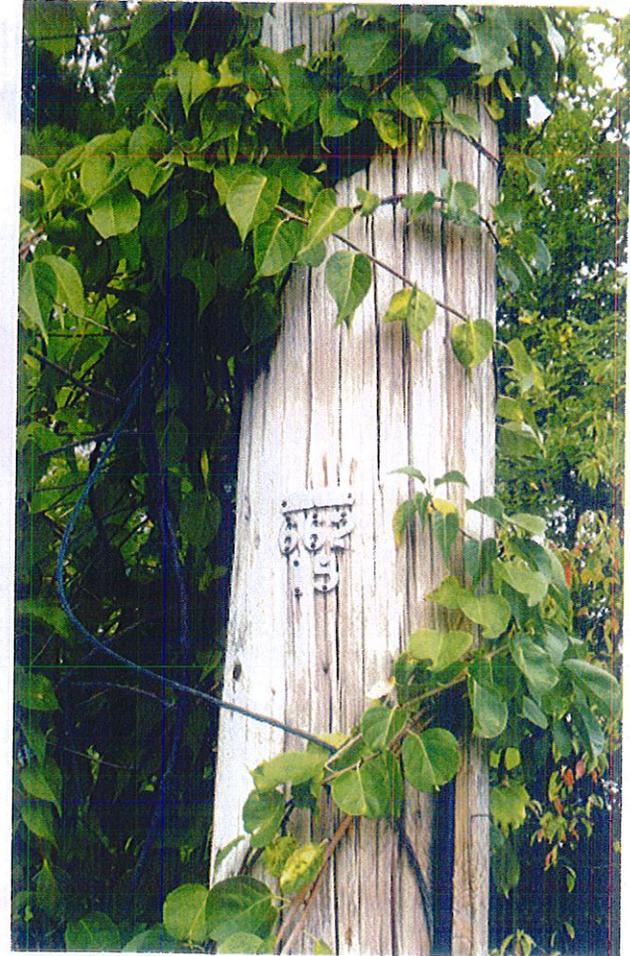
Directional trimming strives to train the tree to grow away from and around the wires. These trimming practices were developed by the U.S. Forest Service and are endorsed by the International Society of Arboriculture as well as tree care professionals across the country.

# Proper Pruning Cuts



# Vine Removal

- **Vines that are climbing poles shall be removed completely from the ground upward to the lowest attachment point. (secondary, telephone, or CATV)**
- **Remove vines from guy wires, trees, fences, or other items where the vines may grow to reach the utility pole and hardware.**



PSEG Long Island has been named a Tree Line USA utility by the Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters. The Tree Line USA Award recognizes utilities that meet five core standards:

- a program of quality tree care
- annual worker training
- tree planting and public education
- a tree based energy conservation program and
- sponsorship of or participation in Annual Arbor Day events.

Better tree care by Tree Line USA utilities means healthier trees for the future and savings for the customer.

