



## Manitowoc Public Utilities Utility Policy Document

Title	MPU Vegetation Management Policy
Policy Owner	Distribution Operations Manager
Effective Date	February 14, 2011
Last Revised	September 10, 2018
Next Revision Date	September 2023
Retention	Permanent
Location	Laserfiche\!Corporate Procedures\Policies

### 1.0 PURPOSE

To maintain reliable electrical service to MPU customers by establishing vegetation maintenance standards to reduce or eliminate vegetation interference with utility operations.

### 2.0 SCOPE / OBJECTIVE

Trees are private properties that often interfere with utility lines. This policy outlines MPU actions for trimming trees and other vegetation management activities necessary to ensure safe, reliable electrical service to MPU customers.

### 3.0 RESPONSIBILITIES / PROCEDURES

#### Routine Trimming by MPU for Line Clearance

Trees that are too close to power lines can interfere with electric service, particularly during bad weather. MPU prunes or removes trees that threaten electric lines and to comply with the Wisconsin State Electrical Code. MPU routinely trims trees within the utility rights of way (where utility lines are permitted to exist) and at no special charge to customers. A four-year trimming cycle is established, clearing one quadrant of the city each year.

Tree trimming crews follow guidelines established by American National Standards Institute (ANSI). Crews are trained to recognize and correct line clearance hazards. Crews also employ directional pruning methods to direct future growth away from the power lines, reduce re-growth and to protect the tree from decay. Crews remove trees only when the hazard is severe and will cut them as close to the ground as possible. MPU will not remove stumps. Exhibits A, B and C (attached) indicate normal line trimming clearances.

Primary and Secondary Lines (pole-to-pole-wires): Trimming requirements vary according to line type, tree species and line proximity. Branches can extend above or below but not too close to wires. Crews prefer to prune branches, but in some rare cases, may need to remove an entire tree if the separation cannot be maintained until the next trimming cycle.

Overhead Service Lines (pole-to-home wires): The service line is owned by MPU and it connects to the property owner's service mast on the building. The property owner is responsible for trimming trees to prevent damage to the MPU service line and to prevent damage to the property owner's service mast. MPU will, at no cost to the customer, trim branches that contact the service line but only to the extent required to keep the service line hanging freely. MPU may opt to install a sleeve on the service line to prevent the tree from rubbing the service line bare.

Cable or Telephone Lines: MPU does not trim trees for these facilities. You may contact your telephone or cable company if you are concerned about tree contact.

MPU or its contractor will attempt to contact the property owner via letter, in person or via door notice when trimming trees located on private property (i.e. not located in roadways). Crews only perform work needed to maintain reliable electric service. Work is done efficiently to minimize disruption.

Trees and brush are private property. When MPU conducts routine trimming for line clearance, however, MPU will remove wood and brush as a customer courtesy (unless the customer asks MPU to leave it).

#### Trimming for Emergencies or to Restore Power from Storm Damage:

Trees and brush are private property. Trees and tree limbs falling on power lines during storms is one of the greatest threats to electric reliability. When storms occur, MPU quickly mobilizes crews to restore your power. MPU removes fallen trees and broken limbs only to the point where we can restore power safely and quickly. In these situations, MPU is not able to give you advance notice nor do we assist you in removing trimming debris.

#### Trimming or Removal by the Property Owner:

Property owners occasionally wish to trim their or remove their trees. Safety is paramount and the property owner should know that only certified electrical line clearance arborists can work within 10 feet of power lines. If you want to remove a tree or any part of it that is closer than 10 feet to a power line, then contact MPU in advance. MPU will inspect the line at no charge and determine if sufficient electrical clearance exists. MPU assistance is limited to providing electrical clearances defined in this policy and/or temporarily dropping the electric service line to the property so that the owner's certified electrical line clearance arborist may complete the work. The property owner is responsible for disposing tree and brush material.

The property owner is responsible for trimming trees to prevent damage to MPU lines and to prevent damage to the property owner's service mast.

When requested by the property owner, MPU will turn off electricity to the property, temporarily drop the overhead service line and later restore it when the property owner's work is complete. MPU performs this work at no charge during normal MPU working hours. Three working days advance notice is requested to schedule this work.

MPU recommends use of certified arborist for tree trimming and tree removal. Check for certification with respective arborist organizations in Wisconsin or the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA).

Stump Removal: Contact Digger's Hotline (telephone 811 or 800-242-8511, or [www.Diggershotline.com](http://www.Diggershotline.com)) at least three working days in advance to have underground utilities locations identified. Power operated excavating equipment (e.g. a stump grinder) is not permitted within 18 inches of a buried electric line. Contact MPU if underground electric lines or pedestals are within five (5) feet of a stump or bush being removed. MPU will assist you in understanding the hazards involved.

**4.0 DEFINITIONS / REFERENCES**

- Wisconsin State Electrical Code PSC 114 (Incorporates National Electrical Safety Code, Section 218)
- Wisconsin Administrative Code PSC 113 (Subchapter V Customer Service and Protection)
- ANSI Standard A300 Part 1 "Tree, Shrub and Other Woody Plant Management – Standard Practices"

**5.0 ADMINISTRATION**

The Distribution Operations Manager will be responsible for compliance with this policy under the general guidance of the Senior Manager-Utility Operations and ultimate oversight of the General Manager.

**6.0 APPROVAL**

This policy has been reviewed and approved by MPU Commission:

Signature: , Dan Hornung, President

Date: 9/10/18