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Call before you dig

If you'll be performing work in your yard that involves digging, Florida law requires you call 811 before you begin to locate and mark buried power lines and other utilities. Call at least two business days before you begin to avoid unintentionally hitting underground utility lines. This free service helps keep everyone safe.

Hire qualified, specially trained line-clearing professionals to trim near power lines

vegetation growing near power lines or that can pose a threat to fall into a

Always keep yourself and the end of any object you are holding at least 10 feet from main and neighborhood power lines and 30 feet from higher voltage



Remember: Your safety is the #1 priority

For more information on trees and power lines, visit **FPL.com/trees** 1-800-226-3545









How keeping trees away from power lines improves your electric service

What homeowners and businesses need to know





Smart landscaping starts with a plan

Landscaping to shade your home from the sun is a low-cost, effective way to reduce your cooling costs. FPL is working hard to deliver worry-free energy, now and in the future, and we need your help. Use this landscape planning guide to help ensure reliable electric service for you and your neighbors.

Note the location of power lines

Power lines are usually located at the top of the utility pole, farthest from the ground. Cable television and telephone lines run closer to the ground, below power lines. When planting your trees, be sure to give them ample room to grow without interfering with power lines.







Find the right tree, 2 choose the right place

Before selecting a tree, consider how tall, wide and deep it will be at maturity. Then carefully consider the location and appropriate setback distances to prevent avoidable power disturbances for years to come. See Right Tree, Right Place guidelines on page 3.

FPL is working hard to deliver worry-free energy, now and in the future, and we need your help.

Did you know that trees are among the most common causes of outages and flickers, especially during storms? And that during Hurricane Irma in 2017, trees were the number one cause of outages?

While FPL trims trees near power lines located in the public right of way or easement, most damage was due to large trees located outside of the utility pruning zone, falling into FPL equipment and our Right Tree, Right Place guidelines not being followed.

One of the most important things homeowners and businesses can do is follow FPL's Right Tree, Right Place guidelines.

A tree planted too close to a power line falls in September 2017 during Hurricane Irma in Sarasota. Trees and vegetation blowing over or knocking into power lines is one of the leading causes of power outages. Following FPL's Right Tree, Right Place guidelines for tree planting and maintenance can help reduce these occurrences.



Line clearing helps prevent outages

What FPL does

The purpose of FPL's line clearing program is to protect our equipment and maintain service reliability.

FPL is committed to delivering safe, reliable electric service to our 6 million customers. The company operates more than 45,000 miles of overhead power lines.

FPL trims vegetation growing near power lines on continual, planned trimming and clearing cycles. We clear main power lines every three years and neighborhood lines every six years, on average.

FPL directs its contractors to follow the International Society of Arboriculture and American National Standard Institute pruning guidelines. FPL uses directional pruning to protect the health of trees while helping them grow away from power lines. Directional pruning, which is considered industry best practice, removes entire branches and limbs down to the main trunk of the tree where trees normally shed. This method directs future tree growth away from the power lines and reduces re-growth.

Proper pruning for tree health

YES



NO Topping trees or leaving branch stubs severely damages trees and encourages rapid regrowth.

Pruning cuts should be made just outside the branch collar to respect natural growth patterns and direct future growth away from power lines.



Remember: Always keep yourself and the end of any object you are holding at least 10 feet from main and neighborhood power lines and 30 feet from higher voltage transmission lines.

Plant the Right Tree in the Right Place

If you're planting trees on your property, look up and note the location of power lines. Before you plant, keep in mind the setback dimensions in the diagram below. Think about how your tree will impact existing utility lines as it grows taller, wider and deeper. Keeping trees away from power lines means that, in the event they blow over or tree limbs become loose, they're much less likely to hit a power line and knock out power. This also keeps debris farther away from the lines to speed our restoration efforts.

Note: Small trees less than 14 feet tall and shrubs may be planted adjacent to power lines. These set-back guidelines increase around transmission lines and equipment. Trees are shown at mature height.



What customers can do

FPL customers play an important role in keeping power lines clear

One of the most important things businesses and homeowners can do is follow FPL's Right Tree, Right Place guidelines.

Additionally, be sure to proactively perform yardwork on your property that isn't near power lines by hiring qualified line-clearing professionals to minimize the risk of trees, fronds or limbs falling into overhead power lines. Don't wait for a hurricane or other major event. No amount of trimming can substitute for smart landscaping and responsible maintenance of trees and other vegetation by property owners.

> Large Trees 50 feet or taller (i.e., oak, ficus):

> > Medium Trees 14 to 49 feet tall (i.e. crepe myrtle, satinleaf): 30' minimum setback

Large Palms:

Set-back recommended to be maximum frond length plus 20'

Utility Pruning Zone