

Vegetation Management



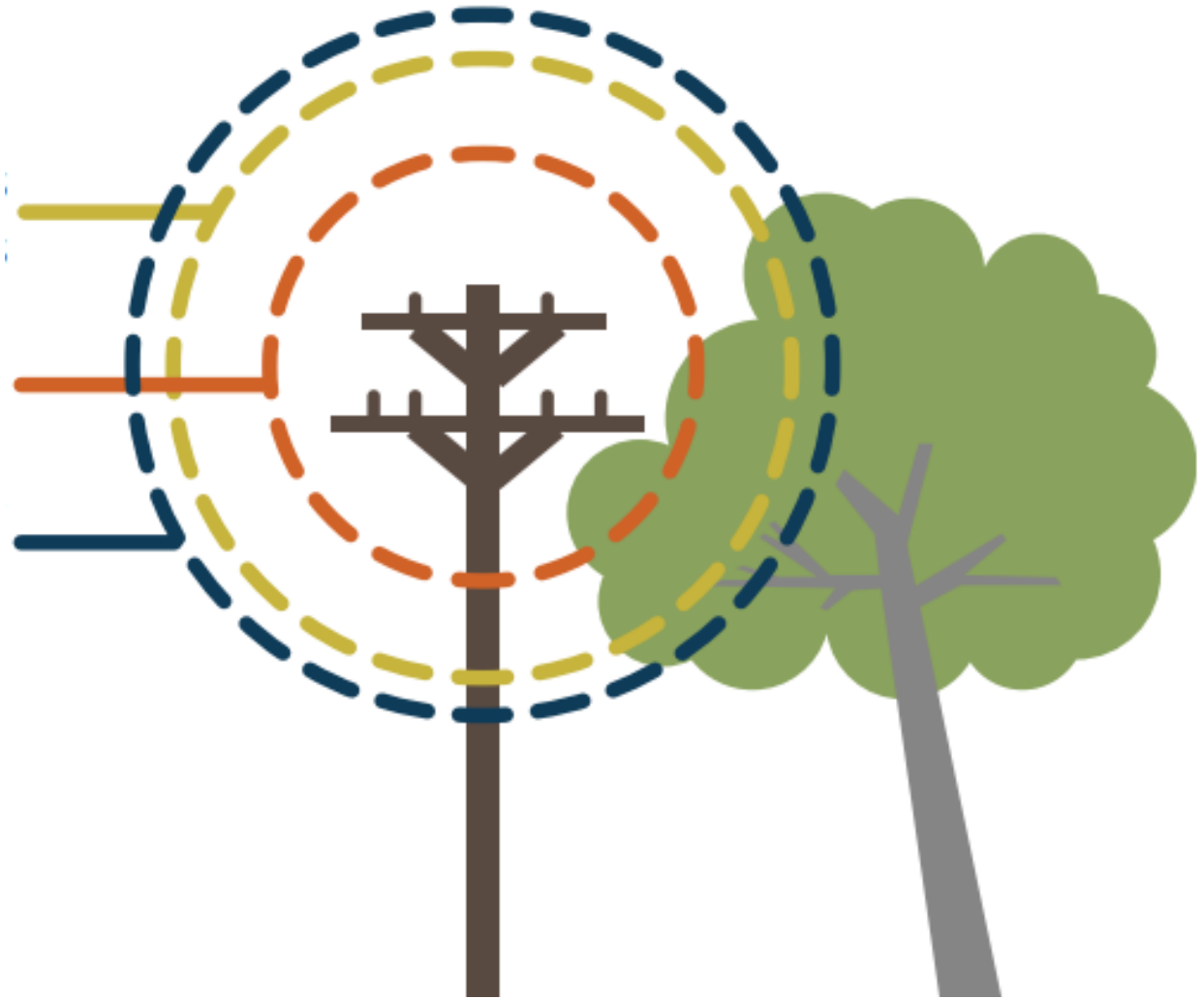
Winter Storm Mara and Vegetation Management

- A natural disaster with a record amount of freezing rain and ice accumulation.
- Ice caused trees, limbs, communications infrastructure, wires, and poles to sag or snap causing additional damage.
- Hurricane level damage.
- Power restoration efforts were labor intensive and required rebuilding these lines.
- Triggered an audit of Austin Energy's Vegetation Management program.



Austin Energy Tree Trimming Clearance Guidelines

- Pre-2006:** 7-9ft slow species and 11-13ft fast species
- 2006-2019:** 4ft slow species and 8ft fast species
- 2019-present:** 7-10ft slow species and 11-15ft fast species



Austin Energy Tree Trimming Cycles and Practices

Tree Trimming Factors

- Tree species and time of year.
- Oak wilt: tree trimming restrictions February – June.
- Bird habitat: no trimming allowed March – August.
- Circuit: trees trimmed from beginning to end of a circuit on maintenance schedules.
- Customer requests: trees trimmed along a section or area identified in a customer request.

Standard Clearances

- Fast-growing species: 15 feet (Ligustrum, China Berry, Hackberry, Pecan).
- Slow-growing species: 10 feet (Cedar, Cedar Elm, Juniper, Live Oak).

By the Numbers

- Trimming cycle involves planning work along **2,400+** miles.
- **Hundreds** of miles of power lines are scheduled for tree trimming or removal on **9,000 – 12,000** properties each year.



Sample High-Level Visual Perspective



Before - 2019



After - 2021

Current Tree Trimming Notification Process

Neighborhood Association and HOA process

- Certified letter or email is sent 10 days prior to individual property notification.
- Two weeks after, the tree trimming work plan is prepared at each property.
- Affected trees are marked with ribbons: green (trimming) or pink (removal).

If a property owner is not home

- Tree trimming work plan is left on a door hanger.
- Includes a callback number to schedule a return visit.
- Crews will commence work if customer does not respond to the vegetation work plan.

If we do not hear back from the property owner for tree removals

- Non-contact process begins if customer is not reached after a reasonable effort.
 - One property visit, unless vacant or otherwise specified by Austin Energy.
 - At least one phone attempt after 6 p.m.
- If no response, trees will only be trimmed on the vegetation work plan

If a homeowner refuses trimming

- A certified letter is sent detailing the work plan and the work is performed.





WORK TYPE	_____
DATE	_____
AE REP.	_____
PHONE	_____

SORRY WE MISSED YOU

(If you are not the property owner, please read, then give this important notice to the owner.)

We will be in your neighborhood soon to prune and/or remove trees on your property which are too close to the distribution electric lines and equipment.

Trees growing into or close to the distribution electric lines and equipment are one of the major causes of power outages and can be a serious safety hazard. To maintain safe and reliable electrical service for all of our customers, Austin Energy uses qualified line clearance contractors with special training to prune and remove trees from the power lines. **This service is provided free of charge to our customers and can only be performed by qualified line clearance workers.**

The trees on your property have been assessed and a work plan is attached that outlines the proposed work. **All tree work will be completed to professional arboriculture standards and Austin Energy line clearance specifications and the work will be reviewed by a professional from Austin Energy's forestry section.**

YOUR OPTIONS AS AN AUSTIN ENERGY CUSTOMER

- Please call the number in the top right corner of this card to arrange for an on-site meeting with a contractor representative to review the proposed tree work.
- You may request an on-site meeting with an Austin Energy employee to discuss the proposed tree work.
- You may have a third party present during these meetings.
- You may request modifications to the proposed tree work.
- If the proposed plan calls for tree removals on your property, you may request that trees not be removed.
- You may request to be present when the tree work is performed.
- You will receive a written work plan documenting the proposed work on your property, if one is not attached.
- You may request pricing on electric system modifications to minimize or reduce tree work.
- You may request a replacement tree. For more information, visit our Web site at austinenenergy.com/go/trees.

The illustrations below indicate the type of clearance that is generally required to remove tree limbs that are too close to power lines or equipment. **If you have any questions, please call the number in the top right corner between 7:30 AM – 3:30 PM, Monday through Friday.**



STEPS TO THE PROPER COLLAR CUT



SIDE TRIM



THROUGH TRIM

Thank You.