

RIVIERA UTILITIES

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT POLICY

Effective August 5, 2011
Revised March 21, 2023

The mission of the Utilities Board of the City of Foley (Riviera Utilities) is to continuously provide high quality, reliable service and value, while constantly striving to improve ourselves and the communities we serve. Vegetation is a major source of service interruption and damage to Riviera Utilities' equipment. To minimize this, Riviera Utilities crews and contractors must perform vegetation management activities for all utilities served. Outlined herein is Riviera Utilities' policy with regard to routine maintenance and emergency conditions:

Electric Department

1. Routine Maintenance (performed once every three years)

- 1.1. Riviera Utilities strives to comply with local ordinances.
- 1.2. Riviera Utilities abides by the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC), American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Z133 and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) rules for tree pruning.
 1. Section 218-A-1 of the NESC states: *Trees that may interfere with ungrounded supply conductors should be trimmed or removed. NOTE: Factors to consider in determining the extent of vegetation management required include, but are not limited to: line voltage class, species' growth rates and failure characteristics, right-of-way limitations, the vegetation's location in relation to the conductors, the potential combined movement of vegetation and conductors during routine winds, and sagging of conductors due to elevated temperatures or icing.*
 2. Section 4.1.7 of the ANSI Z133 states: *Arborist not qualified by training and experience to work within 10 feet (3.05m) of electrical conductors shall maintain at all times the minimum approach distances (MAD) shown in Table 1, measured radially.*
 3. OSHA, Overhead Line Work, Line-Clearance Tree Trimming Operations states: *Unqualified employees must maintain the minimum approach distances of at least 10 feet from overhead power lines.*
- 1.2.3.1. Sections 1910.333 (c) (3) (i) (A) and 1910.333 (c) (3) (i) (A) (1) states: *When an unqualified person is working in an elevated position near overhead lines, the location shall be such that the person and the longest conductive object he or she may contact cannot come closer to any unguarded, energized overhead line than the following distances: For voltages to ground 50kV or below - 10 ft. (305 cm).*
- 1.3. At the time of routine pruning, 10 feet of clearance shall be established around primary voltage power lines.

- 1.4. A reasonable attempt shall be made to make the final cut at a lateral point when removing limbs. This can help direct future growth away from the power lines.
- 1.5. Riviera Utilities will make reasonable efforts to obtain permission to remove, instead of prune trees in close proximity to primary lines.
 1. If permission is granted, all brush and logs will be removed unless otherwise requested.
 2. If the customer refuses to permit necessary pruning, the Riviera Utilities Vegetation Management Arborist must be contacted in order to make necessary arrangements to have the customer's tree pruned. Customers can utilize a pre-approved, qualified private contractor, at his/her own expense, to prune trees to Riviera Utilities' specifications. The Riviera Utilities Vegetation Management Arborist must approve all pruning completed by privately hired contractors.
- 1.6. It is preferred that no trees be directly under primary lines or on easements. Clearance shall be obtained by pruning or removing trees in accordance with Riviera Utilities Vegetation Management Clearance Specifications. Trees and unmaintained woody vegetation shall be removed within a ten foot (10') radius around Riviera Utilities poles and equipment.
- 1.7. Power lines off the road (non-accessible urban back lot) provide one of the biggest challenges in safely maintaining service. Many customers have allowed these areas to grow up in an effort to provide sight and/or sound barriers. To allow these barriers to exist, the customer assumes the responsibility of maintaining line clearance through annual vegetation pruning to a maximum height of six feet (6') in areas without year-round bucket truck accessibility.
- 1.8. At which time it becomes necessary for Riviera Utilities to maintain the vegetation along these lines, an area no less than ten feet (10') on each side of pole center will be cleared between all poles.
- 1.9. Power lines off the road (cross country) will be cleared according to Riviera Utilities Vegetation Management Clearance Specifications.
- 1.10. Riviera Utilities or a representative will make a reasonable attempt to notify customers before work commences.

2. Service Drops, Street and Security Lights

- 2.1. Tree limbs on service drops do not always result in service interruptions. Limbs along a service conductor shall be pruned during routine maintenance to provide a three foot (3') clearance.
- 2.2. Riviera Utilities will not remove trees for service drops. Customers should contact Riviera Utilities Electric Operations Department to request a temporary disconnect of the service conductor to allow the customer to safely remove a tree located near the service drop.
- 2.3. Riviera Utilities will prune around the perimeter of the light structure to prevent damage to the light, globe, or pole. Riviera Utilities does not

remove trees or prune trees to improve the line of sight to the light, or the performance, visibility, or effectiveness of the light. These issues can be performed safely and are the responsibility of the homeowner/property owner, HOA/POA, or the city in which the light is located.

3. Padmount Transformers and Surface Mounted Enclosures

- 3.1. All vegetation around pad mount transformers and surface mounted enclosures shall be removed or pruned to provide a minimum ten foot (10') clearance in front as well as a five foot (5') clearance on all other sides.
- 3.2. In the event of an emergency, Riviera Utilities reserves the right to remove any obstruction without notice.
- 3.3. In the event of planned work, Riviera Utilities will notify and give the customer an opportunity to remove any planted vegetation. If the vegetation is still in place when the work starts, it will be removed.

4. Customer Request for Riviera Utilities to Prune Trees

- 4.1. Riviera Utilities cannot remove or prune all trees as requested by customers. A Riviera Utilities Arborist will evaluate each request and notify the requestor of their findings.
- 4.2. Riviera Utilities reserves the right to refuse to cut or prune any tree that, in the opinion of its Arborist, can be done safely without endangering Riviera Utilities equipment.

5. Customer Contact

- 5.1. Riviera Utilities or its contractor shall make a reasonable effort to notify customers of required pruning. If customer cannot be contacted, a door hanger will be left as notification of necessary pruning to comply with the National Electrical Safety Codes, and Riviera Utilities Vegetation Management Clearance Requirements.
- 5.2. Onsite meetings will be scheduled with a Riviera Utilities representative only by customer request.
- 5.3. No herbicides, chemical sprays, or growth retardant shall be used on established trees without signed notification.

6. Tree Planting

- 6.1. Riviera Utilities reserves the right to remove vegetation installed on utility right-of-way by homeowners, developers, landscape architects, etc.
- 6.2. In some cases, Riviera Utilities may, by prior arrangement, furnish certain species of trees and/or shrubs to replace vegetation removed during normal circuit maintenance.
- 6.3. Riviera Utilities' Arborist and the tree replacement participant/customer will locate an acceptable planting site (right tree, right place). Riviera Utilities

Vegetation Management Supervisor shall have final approval of the tree replacement plan.

7. New Overhead Powerlines

- 7.1. For Primary voltage (600 volts or higher), customers **must** remove all trees located within fifteen feet (15') of the pole centerline or other clearance deemed necessary by Riviera Utilities personnel.
- 7.2. For Secondary voltage (600 volts or lower), customers must prune or remove trees to provide no less than a three foot (3') radius for the service conductor.

8. Emergency Conditions

- 8.1. It is the first priority of Riviera Utilities, in an emergency, to safely restore service. Any trees determined to be the cause of a service interruption will be cut or pruned as necessary.
- 8.2. Limbs on service drops do not always result in service interruptions. Customers will be advised and a condition report will be given to the Vegetation Management Supervisor to coordinate the removal of limbs from service drops, after emergency conditions are over.
- 8.3. During utility restoration, Riviera Utilities is not responsible for the removal/cleanup of trees, tree limbs, brush, or debris caused by natural effects such as thunderstorms, flooding, high winds, hurricanes, tornadoes, etc. Debris will **ONLY** be removed/cleaned up if it creates a hazard.

Gas Department

1. Routine Maintenance

- 1.1. Riviera Utilities will use a combination of mowing, tree pruning, and herbicide applications to maintain the gas right-of-way.

2. Emergency Conditions

- 2.1. It is the first priority of Riviera Utilities, in an emergency, to safely restore service. Any trees or vegetation determined to be blocking access or the cause of a service interruption will be cut or pruned as necessary.
- 2.2. During utility restoration, Riviera Utilities is not responsible for the removal/cleanup of trees, tree limbs, brush, or debris caused by natural effects such as thunderstorms, flooding, high winds, hurricanes, tornadoes, etc. Debris will **ONLY** be removed/cleaned up if it creates a hazard.

Water Department

1. Routine Maintenance

- 1.1. Riviera Utilities will use a combination of mowing, tree pruning, and herbicide applications to maintain the water right-of-way.

2. Emergency Conditions

- 2.1. It is the first priority of Riviera Utilities, in an emergency, to safely restore service. Any trees or vegetation determined to be blocking access or the cause of a service interruption will be cut or pruned as necessary.
- 2.2. During utility restoration, Riviera Utilities is not responsible for the removal/cleanup of trees, tree limbs, brush, or debris caused by natural effects such as thunderstorms, flooding, high winds, hurricanes, tornadoes, etc. Debris will **ONLY** be removed/cleaned up if it creates a hazard.

Wastewater Department

1. Routine Maintenance

- 1.1. Riviera Utilities will use a combination of mowing, tree pruning, and herbicide applications to maintain the wastewater right-of-way.

2. Emergency Conditions

- 2.1. It is the first priority of Riviera Utilities, in an emergency, to safely restore service. Any trees or vegetation determined to be blocking access or the cause of a service interruption will be cut or pruned as necessary.
- 2.2. During utility restoration, Riviera Utilities is not responsible for the removal/cleanup of trees, tree limbs, brush, or debris caused by natural effects such as thunderstorms, flooding, high winds, hurricanes, tornadoes, etc. Debris will **ONLY** be removed/cleaned up if it creates a hazard.

Broadband Department

1. Routine Maintenance

- 1.1. A reasonable attempt shall be made to make lateral cuts when removing limbs in order to help direct future growth away from the lines.
- 1.2. Tree limbs on service drops do not always result in service interruptions. Limbs along a service conductor shall be pruned during routine maintenance to provide, at minimum, a three foot (3') clearance.
- 1.3. Riviera Utilities will not remove trees for service drops. Customers should contact Riviera Utilities to request a temporary disconnect of the service conductor to allow the customer to safely remove a tree located near the service drop.

2. Emergency Conditions

- 2.1. It is the first priority of Riviera Utilities, in an emergency, to safely restore service. Any trees or vegetation determined to be the cause of a service interruption will be cut or pruned as necessary.
- 2.2. During utility restoration, Riviera Utilities is not responsible for the removal/cleanup of trees, tree limbs, brush, or debris caused by natural effects such as thunderstorms, flooding, high winds, hurricanes, tornadoes, etc. Debris will **ONLY** be removed/cleaned up if it creates a hazard.