

# **RIVIERA UTILITIES**

## **VEGETATION MANAGEMENT POLICY**

**January 15, 2018**

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***

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#### **1. Routine Maintenance**

- 1.1. Riviera Utilities abides by the National Electrical Safety Code's rule for tree pruning. 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.*
- 1.2. Riviera Utilities strives to comply with local ordinances.
- 1.3. Riviera Utilities will make reasonable efforts to obtain permission to remove, instead of trim, 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 Supervisor 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 trim trees to Riviera Utilities' specifications. The Riviera Utilities Vegetation Management Supervisor must approve all pruning completed by privately hired contractors.
- 1.4. 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.

- 1.5. A reasonable attempt shall be made to make lateral cuts when removing limbs in order to help direct future growth away from the power lines.
- 1.6. 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.
- 1.7. 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.
- 1.8. Power lines off the road (cross country) will be cleared according to Riviera Utilities Vegetation Management Clearance Specifications.
- 1.9. 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 (circuit trim cycle) to provide, at minimum, 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 only trim trees if said trees have damaged or will damage the street or security light. Riviera Utilities will **NOT** trim trees to improve the visibility of the light.

## **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 Trim Trees**

- 4.1. Riviera Utilities cannot remove or trim all trees as requested by customers. A Riviera Utilities representative will evaluate each request and notify the requestor of their findings.

- 4.2. Riviera Utilities reserves the right to refuse to cut or trim any tree that, in the opinion of its representative, 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' representative 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 trim 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. Debris will **ONLY** be cleaned up if it creates a hazard.
- 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 Line Crew Supervisor and Vegetation Management Supervisor to coordinate

the removal of limbs from service drops, after emergency conditions are over.

- 8.3. Riviera Utilities is not responsible for the cleanup of any brush or debris caused by natural effects such as flooding, high winds, thunderstorms, hurricanes, tornadoes, etc.

## ***Gas Department***

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### **1. Routine Maintenance**

- 1.1. Riviera Utilities will use a combination of mowing 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 the cause of a service interruption will be cut or pruned as necessary. Debris will **ONLY** be cleaned up if it creates a hazard.
- 2.2. Riviera Utilities is not responsible for the cleanup of any brush or debris caused by natural effects such as flooding, high winds, thunderstorms, hurricanes, tornadoes, etc.

## ***Water Department***

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### **1. Routine Maintenance**

- 1.1. Riviera Utilities will use a combination of mowing 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 the cause of a service interruption will be cut or pruned as necessary. Debris will **ONLY** be cleaned up if it creates a hazard.
- 2.2. Riviera Utilities is not responsible for the cleanup of any brush or debris caused by natural effects such as flooding, high winds, thunderstorms, hurricanes, tornadoes, etc.

## ***Wastewater Department***

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### **1. Routine Maintenance**

- 1.1. Riviera Utilities will use a combination of mowing 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 the cause of a service interruption will be cut or pruned as necessary. Debris will **ONLY** be cleaned up if it creates a hazard.
- 2.2. Riviera Utilities is not responsible for the cleanup of any brush or debris caused by natural effects such as flooding, high winds, thunderstorms, hurricanes, tornadoes, etc.

## ***Cable TV Department***

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### **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 (circuit trim cycle) 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. Debris will **ONLY** be cleaned up if it creates a hazard.
- 2.2. Riviera Utilities is not responsible for the cleanup of any brush or debris caused by natural effects such as flooding, high winds, thunderstorms, hurricanes, tornadoes, etc.