



Trees must be kept clear of power lines

If trees touch high voltage conductors or wires, or electricity 'jumps' the gap to a tree that is too close to overhead wires, flashover can occur.

A flashover can cause a risk of electrocution and result in serious injury or death to people and livestock. Fires caused by flashovers are completely avoidable if trees are kept clear of lines.

The Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003 and 2024 updates were introduced to keep trees a safe distance from power lines.

This brochure lets you know the tree owner's responsibilities under the regulations to keep people and property safe.

If Contact needs to undertake any work under the regulations, we'll let the tree owner know the details before getting underway.



Your trees & power lines

Help us keep you and your property safe by ensuring your trees are kept a safe distance from high-voltage overhead power lines.

Owner responsibilities

The tree owner is responsible for keeping their trees outside the Growth Limit Zone. You have an option to declare 'no interest' in the tree, which gives Contact responsibility for keeping the tree clear of the lines. Where an owner declares no interest in a tree, we will fell the tree to avoid ongoing maintenance requirements.

First trim

Trees inside the Growth Limit and Cut Back Zones must be trimmed. If it's the first time the tree needs to be trimmed due to encroaching into this zone, Contact will take care of it free of charge.

Hazard warning notice

When we become aware that a tree is encroaching on the Notice, Cut Back or Clear to the sky zones, we will issue a Hazard Warning Notice to the tree owner. Taking action will stop the tree from encroaching into the Growth Limit Zone.

Cut or trim notice

When we become aware that a tree is encroaching on the Growth Limit Zone, we will issue a Cut or Trim Notice to the tree owner. The notice will detail the action that the tree owner must take, including the timeframe in which the action must be taken and the need to advise us before the work is carried out. It is important that you advise us of any planned work, as we may need to disconnect power around the tree or take other steps to ensure safety.

A. Notice Zone

- Up to 6m in all directions depending on line voltage
- You may get a notice to have your trees trimmed as they are too close to the lines.

B. Cut Back Zone

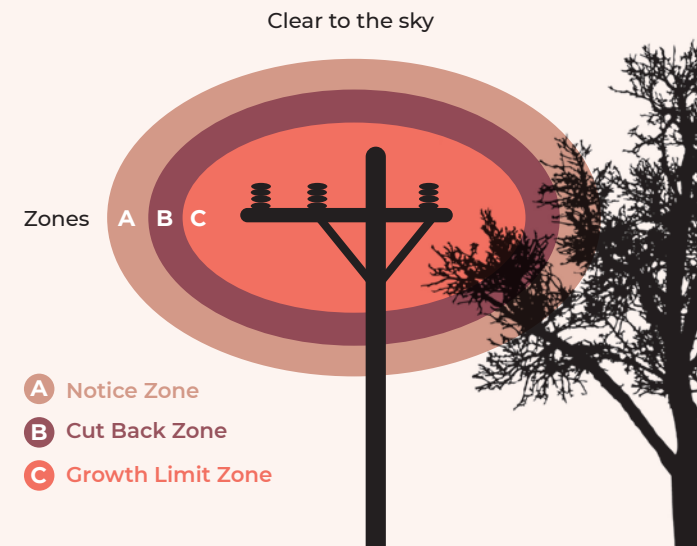
- Up to 5m in all directions depending on line voltage.
- You may get a notice to have your trees trimmed as they are too close to the lines.

C. Growth Limit Zone

- Up to 4m in all directions depending on line voltage.
- You will get a notice requiring your trees to be trimmed by authorised Contact contractor.

Clear to the Sky

- No vegetation above each zone for some lines.



Trees outside the zone

The Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003 and 2024 update only applies to trees within the Notice Zone. However, please also take note of trees in the wider vicinity of overhead lines. Contact reserves the ability to seek compensation from any tree owner who has a tree outside the Notice Zone that falls onto our lines and causes damage.

Forestry areas

If you are planning your harvest and have overhead lines in the vicinity, it is a WorkSafe requirement to complete a Felling Plan agreed by the contractor, principal, and Asset/Network Owner (Power Company) for trees within two tree lengths of the powerlines. Please contact us for advice on managing electrical safety.

If you are using your land to establish forestry plantations, Contact can help determine safe and practical planting setback distances. Early planning will avoid the need to fell immature trees and lessen the risk of damage and forest fire.

Trimming safely

Although it is the tree owner's responsibility to keep the trees a safe distance from lines, for safety reasons only arborists that are qualified to work around lines should do this work. Serious injury or death can occur if a person or the equipment they are using comes into contact with power lines. Do not attempt to measure distances between trees and lines yourself.

Non-compliance

Failing to comply with the requirements of a Cut or Trim Notice is an offence. It is also an offence not to tell us before tree work is being done. Tree owners can be fined up to \$10,000 for these offences, and an additional fine of up to \$500 a day for a continuing offence. Tree owners can also be held liable for the damage caused if a tree damages a power line.



Contact us

We want to work with you to resolve any issues and to carry out work safely and efficiently.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss tree work, please contact us on **0508 62 62 92**.

More information, including links to the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003 and associated notices can be found by visiting our website www.contactenergy.co.nz

