

# factsheet

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## BPA's Vegetation Program

Keeping high-voltage transmission lines safe and reliable is a critical priority for the Bonneville Power Administration. BPA's Vegetation Program strives to keep transmission line rights-of-way clear of trees, brush and encroachments that could hinder BPA's ability to access and maintain its lines.

BPA manages the vegetation on and near its rights-of-way to keep people safe and the system reliable.

Trees (and other tall growing vegetation) that grow close to high-voltage transmission lines are a hazard. Trees don't have to touch a high-voltage transmission line to be dangerous. In certain circumstances, electricity can "arc" from wires through the air to trees or equipment, resulting in fires, injuries or even fatalities to anyone near the tree or equipment.

**"Touching any part of the electrical path can cause serious injury or death."**

During storms, trees can topple and limbs can blow into transmission lines causing power outages to critical community services (e.g., hospitals), homes and businesses. For these reasons BPA is required to "Keep the Way Clear" of vegetation on and near transmission line easements.

### Vegetation Management

BPA has natural resource specialists who manage all vegetation that is or could be a hazard to BPA's high-voltage transmission lines.

BPA specialists manage vegetation on rights-of-way to establish and maintain healthy low-growing plant communities (shrubs, grass and forbs – native ferns, etc.), and cut trees adjacent to the right-of-way determined to be a current or future hazard (due to diseased, damaged or other unstable conditions) to the transmission line.



BPA's primary objective for its Vegetation Program is to keep vegetation a safe distance from BPA lines. Never cut or trim a tree near a transmission line, call BPA.

Landowners may see natural resource specialists, danger tree crews or contract crews along the transmission line rights-of-way on regular patrols to identify or remove vegetation-related hazards.

Before starting vegetation management projects, BPA makes every effort to contact landowners and residents near the project area by letter, door hanger or phone to inform them of BPA's intent and to listen to their concerns. BPA also notifies landowners and residents that contractor crews will be in the area before projects begin.

**"Never cut or trim a tree near a transmission line, call BPA."**

If you have any questions about BPA's Vegetation Program contact your local natural resource specialist or call 1-800-836-6619 for assistance. Additional information on BPA rights-of-way is available on BPA's Web site at [www.bpa.gov](http://www.bpa.gov).



*Electricity can "arc" to tall trees that are in close proximity to high-voltage lines and cause fires.*

