

# TREES AND POWER LINES DON'T MIX

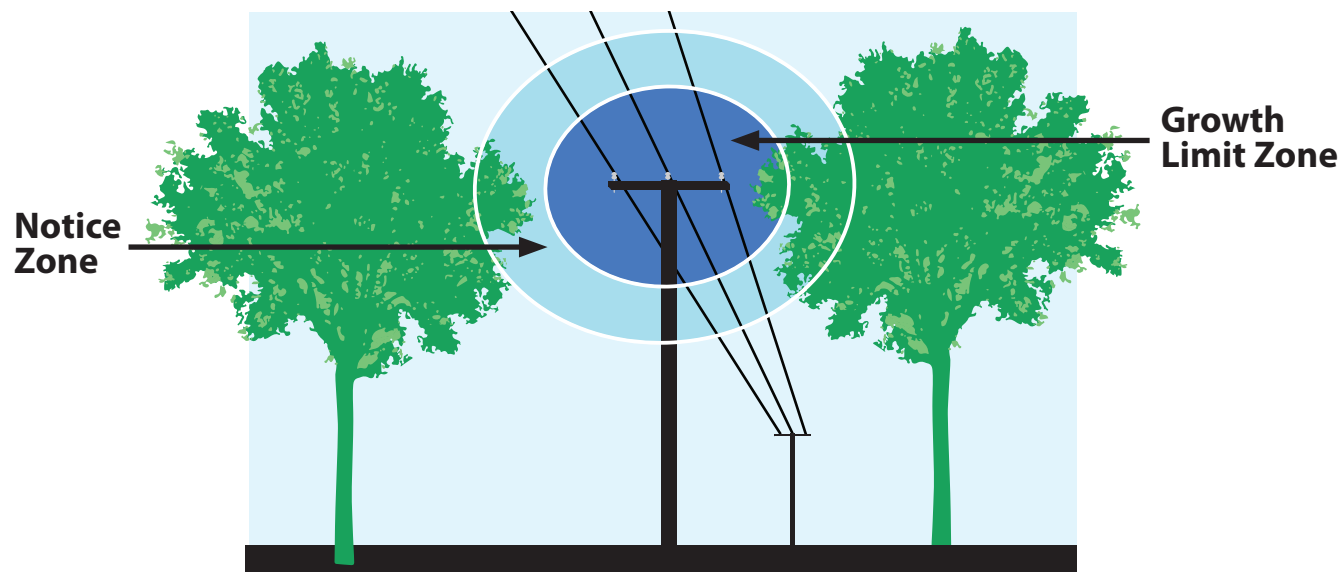
## It is dangerous to let trees grow close to power lines

- You can get a severe electric shock from a tree that is touching a power line
- A fire can be started when a tree touches a power line
- Power cuts can happen when a tree touches a power line

## There are rules about safe distances between trees and power lines

The Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations state you must not let your trees get too close to power lines —too close means inside the GROWTH LIMIT ZONE.

When our vegetation surveyors see a tree inside the Growth Limit Zone they will send you a 'Cut or Trim Notice' with an information sheet telling you that your tree needs to be trimmed or felled. If trees have grown into the Notice Zone we may send a warning notice to advise you that the tree should not grow into the Growth Limit Zone.



Overhead Line	Notice Zone	Growth Limit Zone
66kV - High Voltage	5.0 metres	4.0 metres
33kV - High Voltage	3.5 metres	2.5 metres
11kV - High Voltage	2.6 metres	1.6 metres
LV (400V/230V) - Low Voltage	1.5 metres	0.5 metres

These distances are from the power line.

## It is dangerous to trim or fell trees that are close to power lines

- You can get a severe electric shock causing serious injury or even death
- You can start a fire if a branch falls onto a power line
- You can cause a power cut if a branch falls onto a power line
- You can damage the poles and wires if a branch falls onto a power line

For these reasons, only Utility Arborists that are qualified and approved to work near live power lines are permitted to trim or fell trees inside the Growth Limit Zone. They are trained to work on trees next to live power lines and have the safety procedures and specialised tools needed for the job. This is a requirement of the WorkSafe 'Approved code of practice for safety and health in tree work, part 2: Maintenance of trees around power lines'.

## You must not trim or fell a tree yourself if it is inside the Growth Limit Zone.

There are two tree contractors with Utility Arborist qualifications that have been approved to work near live power lines in the Network Tasman area:

**TREESCAPE 03 544 0588**      **NELMAC 03 546 0910**

If you receive a 'Cut or Trim Notice' you must use one of these approved Utility Arborists to trim or fell the trees. No other tree contractors in the Network Tasman area are approved to work inside the Growth Limit Zone.

If you repeatedly ignore a 'Cut or Trim Notice' then we will refer you to WorkSafe who can fine you up to \$10,000 plus \$500 for each day that you continue to ignore them.

**Check your trees regularly and keep them trimmed so they stay clear of the Growth Limit Zone.**  
**Managing your trees will help prevent power outages and keep the community safe.**

For further information contact our  
 Vegetation Department 0800 508 098 or  
[trees@networktasman.co.nz](mailto:trees@networktasman.co.nz)

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