

Michael Gallucci
Director
Line Clearance



October 2019

We are reaching out to municipal leaders to remind local authorities of Central Hudson's routine line clearance program. As a result of the introduction of several invasive insect/plant species within our service territory in the last decade, Central Hudson has been working with municipalities and residents to remove diseased danger trees that pose a threat to public safety and electric service reliability.

A team of experienced foresters oversees the vegetation management program throughout the region, and work is performed by qualified tree service contractors who adhere to Central Hudson and industry standards and regulations. The program complies with state and federal mandates that require all utilities to conduct an effective vegetation management program in order to reduce power interruptions caused by trees. We remain committed to a comprehensive public safety program and depend upon your assistance in maintaining the safety and reliability of our electric system.

How danger trees impact service

Trees are the primary cause of power outages in the region. When service is interrupted, the problem can usually be traced back to a downed tree or limb that fell on a power line or caused a short circuit.

Interruptions are more than a nuisance to residents, and pose a greater risk when electricity is interrupted to hospitals, fire and police stations, pumping stations, traffic lights and other essential public services. Some residents depend upon continuous, reliable supply of electrical power to operate life-support equipment in their homes. In addition, trees that grow into contact with power lines can conduct electricity, which can create a hazard.

The best way to defend against these potential hazards is with a dedicated and thorough program of regular tree clearing and trimming. Central Hudson's program is carefully designed to reduce the incidents of power outages due to tree damage, while also protecting the natural and scenic beauty of the Mid-Hudson Valley.

Refer to the enclosed brochure or visit www.CentralHudson.com/Trees for more information on Central Hudson's vegetation management program and to learn how to determine if a tree poses a risk. To obtain additional copies of the brochure, please email communications@cenhud.com. For questions or assistance, contact our Line Clearance Department at 845-486-5988.

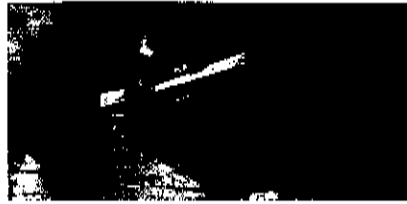
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael Gallucci".

Michael Gallucci
Director, Line Clearance

About the VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

As required by state and federal mandates, Central Hudson's vegetation management program is carefully designed to reduce incidents of power outages due to tree damage, while also protecting the natural and scenic beauty of the Hudson Valley. Central Hudson and other utilities are also required to meet specific reliability targets set by the state. Our vegetation management program plays an important part in enabling us to meet these targets.



Research helps IMPROVE RELIABILITY

To meet regulation requirements and improve electric service, Central Hudson conducted a formal study of the causes of power outages and developed improvement measures. The study found that the tree density along Central Hudson's 9,400 miles of transmission and distribution lines is significantly higher than the nationwide average.



900,000

40%

For questions related to
distribution or transmission line clearance, call
(845) 452-2700 or 1-800-527-2714



SERVICE WIRES

Service wires supply electricity from Central Hudson utility poles on local streets or roadways to homes and businesses. These lines are not cleared by Central Hudson, but can be by a contractor hired by the home or business owner. Central Hudson crews will disconnect the line so that the contractor can safely clear or remove trees, and will reconnect the line when the work is completed.



DIRECTIONAL PRUNING

Tree crews use a technique called "directional pruning" — cutting branches where they join another branch or at the trunk of the tree. This technique lessens or eliminates the number of unsightly stubs and maintains a more natural appearance for the trees. This method also reduces the chances for trees to develop disease, fungus or insect infestation.



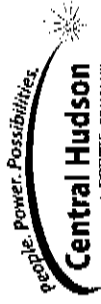
NOTIFICATION LETTERS

Notification letters are sent to property owners in advance of vegetation management activities.



TREE CLEARANCE DURING STORMS

Central Hudson crews and contractors will perform necessary line clearing to facilitate electric service restoration. As storms are an act of nature, and due to the necessity to expedite repairs, Central Hudson does not chip or remove branches, logs or brush during storm restoration. Property owners are responsible for storm-related tree debris associated with their property, and may contact their municipality to inquire about brush and wood removal after a storm event.



www.epa.gov/pesp

EPA-ENDORSED APPROACH

Central Hudson's vegetation management program utilizes an Integrated Vegetation Management approach, which is a practice endorsed by the EPA. Find out more at

We care about trees & YOUR ELECTRIC SERVICE

INSIDE

- » HOW WE TRIM TREES
- » PREVENTING DANGER TREES
- » STORM-RELATED DAMAGE
- » CLEARANCE & PLANTING SPECIFICATIONS



CENTRALHUDSON.COM/TREES

DANGER TREES

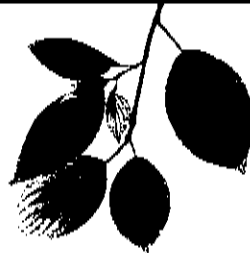
IDENTIFYING DANGER TREES

Tall growing tree species located beneath or directly adjacent to distribution lines, with the exception of yard trees, are removed as they pose a risk to electric safety and reliability. Trees located outside of transmission and distribution corridors which may be dead, dying or are leaning heavily towards the electric lines are considered danger trees and will be removed with permission from the property owner (where applicable). In addition to the risks posed to service reliability, trees that grow into contact with power lines can conduct electricity, which can create a hazard to people and property. Notification letters are sent to customers in advance of performing line clearance along the circuit.

INVASIVE SPECIES

Invasive species also pose a threat to the tree population throughout the northeast and the Mid-Hudson Valley region, and as a result tree crews have discovered a growing number of dead and dying trees along utility lines. Central Hudson works with property owners and municipalities to proactively remove diseased and infested trees to help reduce the incidence of power service interruptions and slow the spread of invasive species.

For questions related to the review and removal of danger trees, call (845) 452-2700 or 1-800-527-2714.



How we TRIM TREES

A team of experienced foresters from Central Hudson oversees the vegetation management program throughout the region, and work is performed by qualified tree service contractors. These contractors follow Central Hudson and industry standards and regulations, including those of the International Society of Arboriculture, American National Standards Institute and Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Central Hudson performs line clearance along both transmission and distribution systems.

TRANSMISSION LINES

Vegetation management for transmission corridors addresses the nearly 600 miles of lines that deliver bulk power to the region. Transmission lines are typically located off-road, and are built on easements generally between 100-150 feet in width. All non-compatible trees within the transmission easements are removed and cleared on a routine basis.

In addition, government-approved herbicides are selectively used to control tree growth within the easements. Property owners are notified by Central Hudson employees or authorized contractors prior to the application of herbicides, according to state regulations.

Our program encourages the growth of natural low-growing vegetation to prevent soil erosion, reduce incompatible tree growth and to provide a more natural habitat for wildlife.

The state's Public Service Commission requires that electric utilities maintain transmission rights of way as follows:

- » Remove all non-compatible, tall tree species within easements and promote low-growth vegetation.
- » Identify and remove any tree that could contact lines.
- » To ensure the integrity of an easement, control tall growing vegetation on maintenance cycles through mowing, clearing and utilization of authorized herbicides.
- » Maintain clear easements to their full width or limits.

DISTRIBUTION LINES

Distribution power lines primarily run along local roadways to provide electric service to homes and businesses. Branches, limbs and trees that may endanger these lines are cleared to improve system reliability and safety. Overhead limbs may contact lines when loaded with snow and ice — the leading cause of outages.



If you plan to do tree work within 10 feet of electric lines (including service lines), call Central Hudson at (845) 452-2700.

TREE PLANTING

SHRUBS / ORNAMENTAL TREES

Height: less than 20' at maturity

LOW TREES

Height: less than 25' at maturity

15'

Asian screen & privacy barriers, windbreak trees, shade trees, all life benefits

Plum screen, windbreak, noise abatement, shade, all life benefits, street-side park & business district locations

Burning Bush, Dwarf Spruce, Japanese Cedar

Japanese Maple, Coast Dogwood, Eastern Redbud, American Cherry

May be planted under utility lines

MEDIUM TREES

Height: Up to 30' at maturity

20'

Grade windbreaks, street-side park & business district locations, background & framing of one-story buildings

Hedge Maple, Sweetgum, Magnolia, Spring Snow, Ginkgo, American Hornbeam, Washington Hawthorn

TALL TREES

Height: 35' or more at maturity

45'

Shading large areas, park & open space settings, background & framing of multi-story buildings

Parsonageberry, Maple, Thornless Honey Locust, Shagbark Hickory, White Pine

SPECIFICATIONS

To maintain system reliability, Central Hudson removes:

Overhanging limbs to reduce risk of branches falling onto power lines

Vegetation 10 feet or more from the outermost primary line

Undergrowth beneath lines, including tall-growing tree species

TRANSFORMERS

If there are no overhead lines on your property, your service is underground. Before yarding for any reason — top or a tree, build a deck, get a fence, install a pool — call the Safe Yard Line at 845-452-2700. 962-2062 toll-free lines marked at least two full business days prior to your planned digging date.

Plant shrubs no closer than three feet from back and sides of box, and no closer than 10 feet in front of box.