

Vegetation management: Edge tree and hazard tree programs

Protecting power lines

We rely on a system of power lines to carry the electricity produced at our generating stations to homes and businesses in B.C. Managing trees and plants around these lines is important for safety and service reliability.

When trees grow towards or into power lines, they can cause power outages, start fires, or conduct electricity into the ground creating a safety hazard. We need to regularly manage trees in the areas under and around power lines.

We use professional arborists to get the job done. Our staff regularly assesses trees that could impact power lines to make sure that tree and plant management has been effective. By using the best tree care practices, our power lines can stay safe, and the trees are impacted as little as possible.

Our vegetation management programs

We have two programs in place to lower the chances of trees impacting power lines. The edge tree program manages trees that grow along corridors for transmission lines and towers. The hazard tree program manages trees with damaged roots, disease, or other defects that could cause them to rot or break, and fall on distribution lines, equipment, or buildings. These programs proactively identify and remove potentially hazardous trees.

Environmental sustainability

We manage vegetation in an environmentally, socially and financially sustainable way, while keeping the electrical system safe and reliable. Trees are only removed when necessary, and after careful consideration. We have strict environmental requirements, like conserving forest areas near bodies of water, protecting at-risk species, and avoiding work during bird nesting season. Before we start any work, property owners with hazard trees on their land will be contacted to discuss the work required.

Did you know?

A tree or object can still be a hazard even if they aren't touching an energized power line. An arc of electricity may form between the conductive line and the nearby object, so we need to keep the surrounding area clear of objects, and most importantly, people.

Learn more about our vegetation management at bchydro.com/trees.



One of our transmission line corridors.



A tree leaning towards a power line.