



As we head into the fall and winter months, and as we continue to experience drought conditions in many parts of New England, Eversource wants to remind community leaders as well as property owners in your community to be especially aware of trees that may be in need of trimming. Trees account for a majority of all power outages in New England, and the drought further stresses trees that may have also been impacted by insect and pest infestations over the past several years, resulting in the potential for more tree and limb problems as we approach the winter storm season.

While Eversource is working to provide reliable electricity to homes and businesses in your community by continuing to conduct scheduled tree trimming, property owners can also help protect their home and the electric system by routinely checking for potentially hazardous trees, and by contacting a qualified contractor to trim trees on their property that stand near the power lines, and are located outside the company's boundaries for trimming.

Here are some suggestions that you can pass along to property owners in your community:

- Before starting seasonal chores like raking leaves and storing lawn furniture, conduct a thorough visual inspection of what is above you. Deadwood is a naturally occurring hazard on some species of trees.
- Check outside your home for any trees or shrubs that appear weak or need to be trimmed, and contact a contractor qualified to trim vegetation if the trees are near power lines. *Never attempt to trim any vegetation growing on or near overhead power lines.*
- Be sure to verify that the contractor is licensed and insured, and complies with all applicable laws, codes, ordinances and/or permits.
- When trimming trees on your property that are *not* located near power lines, it's still wise to plan carefully and safely by locating where power lines go to your meter as well as any that may run along the road.
- Consider hiring an arborist to evaluate your property and offer professional advice and suggestions for maintaining your trees.

Please note: We'd also like to remind you that when Eversource responds to restore service during storms and adverse weather, the company often performs tree work to clear the power lines so that service may be restored to customers. However, it is still the responsibility of the municipalities and local property owners to plan for the cleanup and removal of any fallen limbs or trees on their property.