



RIVIERA UTILITIES

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT POLICY

August 5, 2011

The mission of the Utilities Board of the City of Foley (Riviera Utilities) is to continuously provide high quality, reliable service and value, while constantly striving to improve ourselves and the communities we serve. Unmaintained vegetation is a major source of trouble and can cause interruption of service to many customers. To minimize service interruption and damage to Riviera lines and equipment, Riviera has contracted tree services to maintain vegetation on the entire system. Outlined herein is Riviera's policy with regard to routine maintenance and emergency conditions:

1.0 ROUTINE MAINTENANCE

1.1 Riviera abides by the National Electrical Safety Code's rule for tree trimming. Section 218-A-1 of the NESC states: *Trees that may interfere with ungrounded supply conductors should be trimmed or removed. NOTE: Factors to consider in determining the extent of vegetation management required include, but are not limited to: line voltage class, species' growth rates and failure characteristics, right-of-way limitations, the vegetation's location in relation to the conductors, the potential combined movement of vegetation and conductors during routine winds, and sagging of conductors due to elevated temperatures or icing.*

1.2 Riviera strives to comply with local ordinances.

1.3 Riviera will make a reasonable effort to obtain permission to remove, instead of trim, trees in close proximity to primary lines.

a) If permission is granted, all brush and logs will be removed unless customer requests otherwise.

b) If customer refuses to permit necessary trimming, the Riviera designated representative must be contacted to make necessary arrangements to have the customer's tree trimmed. Customers can utilize a qualified and pre-approved private contractor, at his own expense, to trim trees to Riviera's specifications. The Riviera representative must approve all trimming done by privately hired contractors.

1.4 It is preferred that no trees be directly under primary lines or on easements. Clearance will be obtained by trimming or removing trees in accordance with Riviera Utilities Vegetation Management Clearance Specifications. Trees and unmaintained woody vegetation shall be removed within a ten foot (10') radius around Riviera poles and equipment.

2.0 POWER LINES OFF THE ROAD

2.1 Power lines off the road (non-accessible urban back lot) provide one of the biggest challenges to safely maintaining service. Many customers have allowed these areas to grow up to provide sight and/or sound barriers. To allow these barriers to exist, the customer assumes the responsibility of keeping the lines clear by annually trimming all vegetation to a maximum height of six feet (6') in areas without year-round bucket truck accessibility.

2.2 At which time it becomes necessary for Riviera to maintain the vegetation along these lines, an area no less than ten feet (10') on each side of pole center will be cleared between all poles.

2.3 Power lines off the road (cross country) will be cleared according to Riviera Utilities Vegetation Management Clearance specifications.

2.4 Riviera representatives will make a reasonable attempt to notify customers before work is begun.

3.0 EMERGENCY CONDITIONS

3.1 Since the first priority in an emergency is to safely restore service, any trees determined to be the cause of a service interruption will be cut or trimmed as necessary. Brush and debris will be cleaned up at this time only if a hazard exists.

3.2 Limbs on service drops do not always result in service interruptions. Customers will be advised and a condition report given to the Line Supervisor and Vegetation Management Supervisor to coordinate the removal of limbs from service drops, after emergency conditions are over.

3.3 Riviera is not responsible for the cleanup of any brush or debris caused by natural effects such as hurricanes, tornadoes, etc.

4.0 PADMOUNT TRANSFORMERS AND SURFACE MOUNTED ENCLOSURES

4.1 All vegetation around pad mount transformers shall be removed or pruned to provide a minimum ten foot (10') clearance in front and three foot (3') clearance on the other three sides.

5.0 SERVICES, STREET, AND SECURITY LIGHTS

5.1 Trimming Service Drop - Limbs along a service conductor shall be trimmed during routine maintenance (circuit trim cycle) to provide, at minimum, a three foot (3') clearance.

5.2 Tree Removal for Service Drop – Riviera will not remove trees for service drops. Customers should contact Riviera Utilities Electric Operations Department to request a temporary disconnect of the service conductor to allow the customer to safely remove a tree located near the service drop.

5.3 Tree Trimming for Security Lights – Riviera does not trim for security lights.

5.4 Storm Cleanup – Trees and limbs in contact with service drops due to storms will be removed from the service by a Riviera designated representative. Disposal of trees or limbs broken by natural effects is the responsibility of the customer.

6.0 NEW OVERHEAD SERVICE

6.1 Customer must remove all trees located within fifteen feet (15') of the pole centerline or other clearance deemed necessary by Riviera personnel.

6.2 Customer must trim or remove trees to provide no less than a three foot (3') radius for the service conductor.

7.0 CUSTOMER REQUEST FOR RIVIERA TO TRIM TREES

7.1 Removals/Trimming – Riviera cannot remove or trim all trees that customers request. A Riviera representative will evaluate each request and notify the requestor of their findings by phone call or door hanger.

7.2 Riviera reserves the right to refuse to cut or trim any tree that, in the opinion of its representative, can be done safely without endangering themselves or Riviera equipment.

8.0 CUSTOMER CONTACT

8.1 Riviera or its contractor shall make a reasonable effort to notify customers of required trimming. If customer cannot be contacted, a door hanger will be left as notification of trimming necessary to comply with the National Electrical Safety Codes, and Riviera Vegetation Management Clearance Requirements.

8.2 Onsite meetings will be scheduled with a Riviera representative at customer's request.

8.3 No herbicides, chemical sprays, or growth retardant shall be used on established trees without signed notification.

9.0 TREE PLANTING

9.1 Riviera reserves the right to remove vegetation installed on utility rights of way by homeowners, developers, landscape architects, etc.

9.2 In some cases Riviera may, by prior arrangement, furnish certain species of trees and/or shrubs to replace vegetation removed during normal circuit maintenance.

9.3 Riviera's representative and the tree replacement participant/customer will locate an acceptable planting site (right tree, right place). Riviera Vegetation Management Supervisor shall have final approval of the tree replacement plan.