



Hydro Ottawa TREE TRIMMING



A leading, trusted, integrated utility services company

Trees are an integral part of the Ottawa community – contributing to the city’s appearance, while also removing and storing greenhouse gases from the atmosphere as they grow.

Many of Ottawa’s trees are close to the city’s power line corridors. When trees are close enough to potentially contact power lines, public safety and the uninterrupted supply of electricity can be compromised. Hydro Ottawa has a responsibility to ensure its electricity system is safe and that it operates reliably.

Balancing the benefits of a healthy tree canopy with the needs for public safety and electricity supply reliability, Hydro Ottawa conducts a Tree Trimming Program throughout the year. Tree trimming is a full-time activity for Hydro Ottawa.

TREE TRIMMING PROGRAM

Across Ottawa, there are an estimated 180,000 trees in proximity to the 2,900 km of overhead lines that require some form of trimming in order to ensure public safety and adequate clearance from electrical lines.

Hydro Ottawa trims more than 40,000 trees per year as part of its regular maintenance program. Hydro Ottawa has contractors to carry out the Tree Trimming Program. On a daily basis, they may have anywhere from 20 to 30 employees along with vehicles working for Hydro Ottawa.



All crews involved in the Tree Trimming Program follow industry best practices, receive extensive training in proper line clearing techniques, and are regularly updated on electrical awareness.

Hydro Ottawa has two forestry inspectors who monitor the daily progress of the tree trimming field crews and perform contract administration and quality assurance on the over-all program. The Hydro Ottawa forestry inspectors also communicate regularly with City of Ottawa forestry staff.

Hydro Ottawa publishes a “Tree Planting Advice” booklet that may assist customers in planting the “right tree in the right place”, so that the tree will not interfere with power lines as it grows. A copy is available on the Hydro Ottawa website: https://static.hydroottawa.com/documents/publications/safety/tree_planting_advice-EN.pdf

VEGETATION SURVEY

Hydro Ottawa is gathering data about trees in proximity to overhead lines through a Vegetation Survey. Surveyors are going throughout the City and collecting information about tree species, proximity to lines, as well as other valuable vegetation data. The results of this vegetation survey will be used to improve the efficiency of the Tree Trimming Program.

EMERALD ASH BORER

A particular threat to trees near power lines is the emerald ash borer, a non-native, highly-destructive wood-boring beetle that feeds under the bark of ash trees. It disrupts the tree’s transportation of water and nutrients, and has killed millions of ash trees in Ontario and many parts of the United States.

The City of Ottawa has noted a high mortality rate of ash trees and anticipates higher than normal costs for tree removal. Hydro Ottawa has budgeted additional funds and is working with the City to remove dead ash trees on public property in the vicinity of electrical equipment.

Customers who have dead or dying ash trees on their property near electrical equipment must remove the tree. People and equipment must stay 3 metres away from the power lines, and not work on tree branches within 3 metres of the power lines. If a customer or a customer’s contractor wants to remove a tree with branches within 3 metres of the power lines contact Hydro Ottawa to trim these trees so that the removal can be done safely.



Contact Us

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