

UTILITY LINE ARBORIST TRAINEE

Job Description

NRECA Job Code: 55-7661

Position Summary:

The Utility Line Arborist Trainee performs entry-level vegetation management work around electric utility lines and related structures under the direct supervision of qualified personnel. The trainee develops the knowledge and skills needed to safely support line-clearance operations, including job-site setup, brush handling, equipment inspection, chainsaw and chipper operation, basic climbing and rigging, hazard recognition, and emergency procedures. Work assignments and proximity to energized conductors are limited to the trainee's demonstrated qualifications, training, and applicable Minimum Approach Distance (MAD) requirements.

Responsibilities:

- Assist qualified line-clearance arborists with trimming and removal work near electric utility lines in compliance with OSHA, ANSI Z133, and OCEC safety standards.
- Perform assigned work only within the trainee's level of training and authorization and maintain required Minimum Approach Distance (MAD) from energized conductors.
- Support job-site setup, traffic and pedestrian control, brush handling, chipping, cleanup, and safe work-zone maintenance.
- Learn and apply basic climbing, knot tying, rigging, pruning, directional-felling, and aerial-lift techniques under direct supervision.
- Operate and maintain chainsaws, chippers, hand tools, climbing gear, and other assigned equipment after completing required training and demonstrating competency.
- Participate in pre-job briefings, job hazard assessments, equipment inspections, and emergency-response drills.
- Identify and promptly report electrical hazards, hazardous tree conditions, damaged equipment, and changing site conditions.
- Follow instructions from qualified crew leaders and comply with all safety policies, work practices, and regulatory requirements.
- Communicate effectively with OCEC members, supervisors, and crew regarding job requirements and progress.
- Maintain accurate daily records of work performed, training progress, equipment inspections, and safety compliance. Use OCEC mapping software and email to complete assigned tasks, enter time, and correspond with supervisors and other departments.

Qualifications / Requirements:

- High school diploma or equivalent preferred.
- Valid driver's license with an acceptable driving record.
- **A Commercial Driver's License (CDL) is not required for the Utility Line Arborist Trainee position. A valid Class A CDL with an acceptable driving record is required to advance to the Utility Line Arborist position.**
- Ability and willingness to complete required line-clearance arborist training, including electrical hazard awareness, chainsaw safety, climbing, aerial-lift operation, rigging, first aid/CPR, and rescue procedures.
- Ability to understand and follow Minimum Approach Distance (MAD) requirements and to work only within the limits of current training and authorization.
- Ability to learn the safe use of chainsaws, chippers, hand tools, climbing equipment, aerial lifts, and tree-trimming and removal equipment.
- Ability to complete Electrical Hazard Awareness Program (EHAP) training within the timeframe established by OCEC.
- Ability to communicate clearly, follow verbal and written instructions, work as part of a crew, and maintain a strong commitment to safety, teamwork, and professionalism.

Working Conditions:

- Outdoor work in all weather conditions.
- Exposure to energized conductors, heights, noise, and heavy equipment.
- Physical demands include climbing trees at extreme heights, lifting 50 lbs. and working at elevated heights for extended periods on trees and in aerial lifts