

UTILITY LINE ARBORIST

Job Description

NRECA Job Code: 55-7661

Position Summary:

The Utility Line Arborist is responsible for performing vegetation management around energized power lines and related structures. This role requires full qualification to work within the Minimum Approach Distance (MAD) of energized electrical conductors, advanced knowledge of rigging techniques, and the ability to supervise and direct a crew to ensure safe and efficient operations. Key responsibilities include proficient tree climbing, operation of bucket trucks and chainsaws, directional felling of trees, and identification of hazardous tree characteristics and risk assessment.

Responsibilities:

- Perform line clearance tree trimming and removal near energized powerlines in compliance with OSHA, ANSI Z133, and OCEC safety standards.
- Work safely within established Minimum Approach Distance (MAD) as a certified line clearance arborist.
- Utilize advanced rigging and climbing techniques and equipment to safely dismantle trees and branches in challenging environments.
- Operate and maintain chainsaws, chippers, aerial lifts, climbing gear, and other tree care equipment safely and efficiently.
- Conduct pre-job hazard assessments and implement proper safety controls.
- Supervise, train, and mentor ground workers and less experienced arborist trainees working within MAD.
- Ensure all crew members follow safety policies, proper work practices, and regulatory guidelines.
- Communicate effectively with OCEC members, supervisors, and crew regarding job requirements and progress.
- Maintain accurate daily records of work performed, equipment inspections, and safety compliance. Able to use OCEC mapping /software and e-mail to carry out tasks, enter time and correspond with supervisor and other departments.

Qualifications / Requirements:

- Qualified Line Clearance Arborist must meet (OSHA and ANSI Z133) requirements of performing bucket rescue and acceptable timed aerial tree rescue.
- Must maintain a valid Class A Commercial Driver's License with an acceptable driving record.
- Proven ability to work safely within Minimum Approach Distance (MAD) of energized powerlines.
- Strong knowledge of rigging techniques, knots, and load-handling procedures.
- Experience in directing and training crews in line clearance operations.
- Proficiency with climbing gear, aerial lifts, and tree trimming/removal equipment.
- Current CPR/First Aid certification
- Current EHAP (Electrical Hazard Awareness Program) Certification
- 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