

Dear Customer,

Liberty is planning routine vegetation maintenance in your neighborhood in 2021. Liberty's vegetation management practices promote "right tree, right place" principals, as per the Arbor Day Foundation. Right tree, right place principals guide us in maintaining a healthy community forest, while keeping hazards away from power lines and the electric right-of-way clear of hazards.

Conifers and other native tree species that can mature at heights of over 100 feet in the Tahoe Basin pose an unnecessary risk when underneath high voltage power lines. **Liberty is removing vegetation that may pose a risk from under our lines in the electric right-of-ways. We encourage tall-growing, beautiful trees exist outside and away from the electric right-of-way!**

Your cooperation in allowing us to remove problem trees enables us to follow best practices in the Tahoe Basin is key. If we are unable to remove trees that can interfere with powerlines, we will have to resort to topping trees that encroach minimum allowable distances from below the powerlines.

Topping is a severe pruning practice that is not endorsed by the tree industry. According to the International Society of Arboriculture, topping a tree is harmful and disfiguring to the tree and can even result in accelerate growth, making the tree difficult to manage and maintain. The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) has implemented a topping ordinance for these reasons. For more information visit: <https://www.trpa.org/wp-content/uploads/TRPA-Code-of-Ordinances.pdf>.

How will removing trees growing under electric lines as well as other tree hazards benefit you and your community?

- Increased electric reliability
- Increased safety
- An essential part of wildfire mitigation
- Long term reduction of vegetation maintenance costs paid by the ratepayer (you)
- Increased property value due to mitigation of tree hazards, increased defensible space, and aesthetically pleasing trees that are not topped for the powerlines

What's next?

Liberty contractors specializing in utility vegetation management will be patrolling the circuit to mark vegetation threats described above. If tree work is required on your property, you will be notified of what to expect and general time frames of when work is to occur.

As a reminder, please never attempt to prune or remove trees near overhead wires for your safety, you could get electrocuted. Leave it for the trained professionals. For more information visit: <https://california.libertyutilities.com/truckee/residential/safety/electrical/tree-safety.html>.