

<b>Policies and Procedures</b>			
Department	Northern Ontario Wires Inc.	Issued	
Section	Operations	Effective:	May 10, 2010
Subject:	<b>TREE TRIMMING</b>	Page:	1 of 3
Approved by:		Revised:	

## 1. POLICY

In accordance with the *Electricity Act, 1998* Section 40 (4), Northern Ontario Wires Inc. shall perform the removal of trees, branches and other obstructions if, in the opinion of NOW Inc. it is necessary to do so to maintain the safe and reliable operation of its distribution system.

## 2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to maintain the safe and reliable operation of Northern Ontario Wires Inc.'s distribution system.

## 3. SCOPE

The scope of this policy applies to all customers and/or residents, who are in Northern Ontario Wires Inc.'s service territory.

## 4. RESPONSIBILITY

It is the responsibility of Northern Ontario Wires Inc. to recognize any potential hazards to the distribution system. Upon identification of trees, branches or other obstructions that may interfere with the distribution system, Northern Ontario Wires Inc. will proceed with the necessary removal, as required. In such cases, the *Electrical Safety Authority* may provide written direction to undertake the immediate removal of said obstructions.

## 5. REFERENCES and RELATED STATEMENTS of POLICY and PROCEDURE

Electricity Act, 1998  
Occupational Health and Safety Act

## 6. PROCEDURE

### 6.1 Reasoning

Trees and good electric service are both important to our community. Unfortunately, the two are not always compatible. Northern Ontario Wires Inc. must trim trees for safety purposes, as required by law, and to avoid service interruptions. Trees are trimmed in order to achieve two critical objectives:

- (a) **Public Safety:** anyone who prunes or climbs trees that are in contact with the power lines is putting themselves into potentially highly dangerous situations. Trees and the ground around them may become energized when branches

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come into contact with the power lines. Momentary contact between the tree and energized power lines could be fatal to anyone who is in proximity of the tree.

- (b) **Reliability:** Trees are a significant cause of power outages. Outages from trees are caused from branches rubbing on power lines, branches falling on power lines and trees falling across power lines during storms. This can damage wires, cause short circuits and other problems. By trimming on a regular schedule to a minimum clearance, NOW Inc. will eliminate predictable safety hazards and reduce tree related outages.

## 6.2 Tree Trimming Schedule

Northern Ontario Wires trims trees that interfere with, or have potential to interfere with the distribution system on a regular basis. NOW Inc. employees are trained to trim and/ or remove trees that may cause problems. Other indications that a tree may need to be trimmed are:

- (a) Reports of electrical outages caused by trees
- (b) Areas where trees have been damaged by storms
- (c) Periodic inspections by NOW Inc. personnel
- (d) Reports from customers indicating potential tree problems

Northern Ontario Wires can offer help to home owners removing trees on private property that are in proximity to distribution lines. Arrangements can be made by contacting the Electrical Superintendent.

Fallen trees or limbs on private property are the responsibility of the property owner. The property owner is also responsible for the disposal of all limbs and wood resulting from trimming storm-damaged trees for service restoration efforts.

## 6.3 Access

The provision of right-of-way easements has granted Northern Ontario Wires Inc. the authority to trim trees without the property owner's consent. However, NOW Inc. respects our customer's property and will, when possible, notify the property owner of the need for the work required. In unusual emergency situations, it may be necessary to trim trees without first notifying the property owner to restore service and eliminate safety hazards.

Additionally, homeowners and private businesses are required to sign a "Terms of Agreement" with Northern Ontario Wires Inc. that agrees to allow access for maintenance before service connections are made.

