



A Shared Responsibility: Managing Connecticut's Trees

Eversource is committed to working with municipal leaders, tree owners and the Connecticut Department of Transportation (DOT) to help remove the thousands of dead or defective trees that have been devastated by the invasive Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and gypsy moth and that are putting Eversource customers' electric service at risk. The impact to Connecticut communities has been significant and continues to grow—the Emerald Ash Borer has affected 136 communities so far and is expected to spread to all remaining towns, while the gypsy moth and drought have caused widespread tree mortality throughout Connecticut.

To help address this crisis, Eversource requested and was granted additional tree removal funding from the Public Utility Regulatory Authority (PURA) for 2019 and 2020. However, these funds are limited only to those trees that threaten the reliability of the electric system. Therefore, managing this unprecedented and widespread tree mortality is a shared responsibility of utilities and tree owners.

What to Know About Eversource Tree Removal

- Eversource is partnering with municipal leaders and the Connecticut DOT in removing trees that are putting our electric system at risk.
- Our arborists perform tree inspections to assess the health of trees that pose a potential threat to electrical facilities. Due to the magnitude of the issue:
 - Trees are prioritized for removal based on the condition of the tree and the potential impact to Eversource electric customers.
 - Dead and highly defective trees that have the potential to impact a large number of customers have a higher priority than trees having the potential to affect fewer customers.

Tree Owner Responsibility for All Other Impacted Trees

Dead trees may pose a public safety risk and tree owners can be liable for possible damage or injury. Therefore:

- Eversource recommends that towns consider inventorying their trees, prioritize them and address the greatest safety risks, and consider building municipal budgets to address tree removal based on a sound roadside forest management plan.
- Eversource customers are responsible for pruning and removing trees on their property that may impact the service lines from the street to the meter, and for removing trees on their property that pose a hazard to neighbors, pedestrians and roads.
- Tree owners should seek a CT Licensed Arborist at ctpa.org, and woodland owners should seek a Connecticut Certified Forester at ct.gov/deep.

For More Information

- For more information on gypsy moths, go to the Gypsy Moth Fact Sheet at ct.gov/case, and for information on the Emerald Ash Borer, go to EAB information at ct.gov/deep.
- Plan Before You Plant; set up newly planted trees for success. Visit www.eversource.com and select Outages & Storms and then Tree Trimming for Plan Before You Plant guidelines, and suggestions on planting compatible trees near power lines.

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