

Metro-Sunset Transmission Line Hazard Tree Removal

Work Overview:

To ensure safety and reliability for customers and the public, about 20 trees along a portion of Avista's Metro-Sunset transmission line north of the Sunset substation, located off U.S. Highway 195, have been identified as hazardous and are scheduled for removal July 24-26, 2017. The dead, decayed and structurally defective trees pose a threat of coming into contact with electric transmission and distribution power lines, potentially causing a power outage and creating a wildfire risk.

Where are the hazard trees located?

- The trees are located along a section of Avista's Metro-Sunset transmission and distribution lines on the lower South Hill bluff north of the Sunset substation. The substation is located off U.S. Highway 195.
- Hazard trees near the intersection of 17th and 18th avenues and 29th Ave. have also been identified for removal.
- The risk trees are outside of the transmission easement, but the height of the trees puts them within reach of falling into the power lines.

Why are the trees being removed?

- The trees are dead, dying and structurally defective, posing a threat of coming into contact with power lines and creating a safety risk.
- The removal of the hazard trees will also help reduce the potential wildfire risk from a tree coming into contact with the power lines.

How were the trees identified?

- Avista's system forester and the City of Spokane forester have jointly identified the hazard trees for removal.
- Each hazard tree identified for removal is marked with a blue X on the base. Some are marked WL which indicates the tree will be topped to create a snag for wildlife.
- The hazard trees identified for removal are on property owned by Avista, the City of Spokane, and private landowners.
- Private landowners have been contacted about the hazard tree removal.



What are the environmental impacts of the removing the hazard trees?

- Following standard transmission vegetation practices, the trunks, tree tops and limbs will remain on the ground, however, no portion of the tree will be left across or on a trail.
- The trunks and topped trees will create habitat for wildlife and create a micro-site for vegetation growth.
- The felled trees and trunks will be scored to stop pine beetle infestation. The removal of the hazard trees will also help reduce the potential wildfire risk from a tree coming into contact with the power lines.

Can I use the trails when the work is taking place?

- Ensuring the safety of trail users is very important. That's why the trails in the work area will be temporarily closed July 24-26 when the work will be taking place.
- Signs will be posted on trails near the work area to alert users to the temporary closure.
- For safety sake, trail users are encouraged to stay out of the work area.

Who do I contact with questions?

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Example of hazard trees identified for removal

