



For Immediate Release

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SCE&G Trimming Activities to Resume within City Limits

SCE&G contractors will return to Columbia and perform tree trimming activities along overhead distribution utility lines in areas in and around the City of Columbia. Although there is not yet a specific schedule for when or where tree trimming will resume, when it does resume, the work will be monitored on a daily basis by the City's four certified arborists from the Forestry and Beautification Division.

The primary focus of trimming activities is for the safety of the linemen that work on the lines, to increase public safety and improve the reliability of the electric service. SCE&G reports an 89 percent improvement in reliability in vegetation related outages in areas where distribution utility line trimming is completed compared to a year ago. Trimming guidelines necessitate having clearances within 8-12 feet below and beside the distribution utility lines and up to 20 feet above the distribution utility lines. SCE&G and their contractors trim in accordance with International Society of Arboriculture guidelines, using ANSI A300 pruning methods. These pruning methods call for leaving good cuts that will generate new growth and help prevent against disease and decay. While the immediate result of the trimming may not always be aesthetically pleasing, new growth returns quickly and the trimming practices used help protect the long term health of the trees.

For more information about SCE&G's tree trimming efforts, including helpful tips and suggestions regarding the planting of trees and other vegetation, visit www.sceg.com/treetrimming. If you have questions concerning vegetation around the power lines, please contact an SCE&G customer service representative at 1-800-251-7234.

If you have any questions for the City of Columbia Forestry and Beautification Staff, please call 803-545-3860.

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