

Integrated Vegetation Management Program: Clearance Standards

The clearance standards adopted by Union Power Cooperative’s IVM Program are a result of a growth study conducted by a consulting firm in 2004. The recommendations from the study became a part of the “Adopted Guidelines for Line Clearance by Voltage/Phases,” as shown in Table 1 below:

Clearance from trees	Growth Rate	34Kv and above	2 & 3 phase primary	1 phase primary	secondary	services
Rural Areas						
Under R/W	Slow	25 ft-5.10 f/g.	5.10 a.	5.10 a.	n/a	5.10 e.
	Fast	25 ft-5.10 f/g.	5.10 a.	5.10 a.	n/a	5.10 e.
Side R/W	Slow	25 ft-5.10 f/g.	15 ft	15 ft	n/a	5.10 e.
	Fast	25 ft-5.10 f/g.	15 ft	15 ft	n/a	5.10 e.
Over R/W	Slow	5.10 g.	5.10 b.	5.10 b.	n/a	5.10 e.
	Fast	5.10 g.	5.10 b.	5.10 b.	n/a	5.10 e.
Towns						
Under	Slow	25 ft-5.10 f/g.	15 ft.-5.10 c.	15 ft.-5.10 c.	2	5.10 e.
	Fast	25 ft-5.10 f/g.	15 ft.-5.10 c.	15 ft.-5.10 c.	4	5.10 e.
Side	Slow	25 ft-5.10 f/g.	10 ft-5.10 d.	10 ft-5.10 d.	2	5.10 e.
	Fast	25 ft-5.10 f/g.	15 ft-5.10 d.	15 ft-5.10 d.	4	5.10 e.
Over	Slow	5.10 g.	5.10 b.	5.10 b.	2	5.10 e.
	Fast	5.10 g.	5.10 b.	5.10 b.	4	5.10 e.

Table 1. Adopted Guidelines for Line Clearance by Voltage/Phases

Explanation of codes listed in Table 1:

- 5.10 a. The R/W shall be cleared and ground cut for a minimum distance of 15 feet to each side of the conductor, ground to sky, or out to the limits of the existing cleared R/W when that is greater. All trees, limbs, and branches that are pruned or cut shall be chipped, mowed, or removed from site.
- 5.10 b. Prune all lines from ground to sky to a minimum of 15 feet each side of the conductor, and "hook" the crown (at the top) away from the lines. All overhang is to be removed.
- 5.10 c. Begin pruning on distribution primary voltages at the level at least 15 feet below the primary wiring.
- 5.10 d. When side pruning in residential areas, large tree trunks or major limbs of established trees may be allowed to remain as close as five feet from conductors **if all** of the following conditions are true:
 - o Movement of either the conductor or the tree will not result in contact between the tree and the conductor.
 - o The tree is not easily or readily climbed without the use of ladders or specialized climbing equipment.
 - o There is no evidence of regrowth or sprouting from the tree trunk toward the line.
- 5.10 e. No routine pruning conducted. Pruning requests from members shall be addressed on a case by case basis.
- 5.10 f. A minimum of 20 feet of clearance on slow-growing trees must be attained and 25 feet of clearance on all others.
- 5.10 g. All overhangs must be removed.