

## Integrated Vegetation Management Program: Reliability Cutting Program

The Reliability Cutting Program targets properties that have a large number of trees of the same species that are prone to insect and/or disease infestation, and that have been identified as reliability interest properties. The main type of tree this program targets is pine due to the Ips Engraver Beetle mortality problem in our service territory.



Once Union Power Cooperative identifies a property with repeat tree-caused outage issues, the IVM Department assesses the cause and makes contact with the Member to discuss potential solutions. If it is determined that the Reliability Cutting Program is the best option, we **will**:

- Cut down live (green) trees that will eventually become infected (Ips beetle is the main issue).
- Remove all wood and debris from the site.
- Grind stumps below ground level of site.
- Grade the site (as needed).
- Apply grass seed and straw (if appropriate) on the disturbed locations.
- Upon Member's request, take the wood to a neighbor or family, nearby, who can use the wood.
- Perform the work at no out-of-pocket cost to the Member.

**We will not:**

- Pay Member for wood.
- Cut wood to very specific dimensions.
- Transport wood on Member's request to a sawmill business.
- Cut healthy trees that do not pose a risk to the power lines (per assessment by IVM Department personnel).

If you are experiencing repeat outages from pines dying and falling on the power lines, don't hesitate to call us at 704 289-3145 to request an on-site visit by IVM personnel.