

# Your Trees and Your Power Supply

What the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003 mean for you.



Under the new Electricity regulations (effective 1<sup>st</sup> July) there are minimum distances trees must be kept away from power lines. The rules govern that tree owners are responsible for keeping their trees clear of power lines. Alpine Energy wish to implement a common sense approach that will help you manage your trees.

## Trees Must be Trimmed

Trees close to power lines can be dangerous. If you, or a tree you are touching, are too close to a power line then you risk an electric shock and injury or death. Tree branches can break power lines causing fire and the loss of electricity supply. It is the tree owner's responsibility to keep their trees away from power lines.

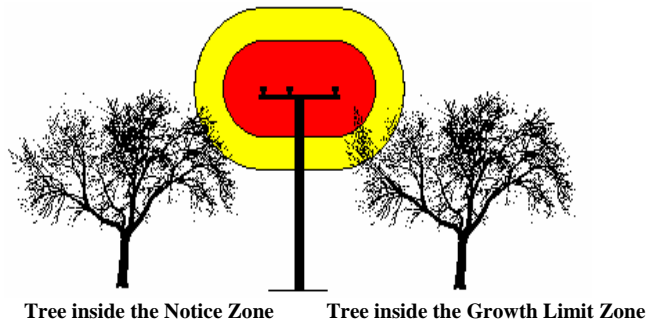
## How Far Trees Should be Trimmed

Ultimately keeping trees at least four metres away from the path of power lines is best. Trees closer than four metres to power lines are dangerous for you to cut yourself. You will need to know the following limits:

- **Growth Limit Zone:** This is the minimum distance a tree should remain away from a power line under all conditions. Trees should be trimmed before they reach this zone.
- **Notice Zone:** If your tree reaches this zone you will need to arrange to have your tree trimmed. An approved arborist must be used.

For spans less than 150 metres the following distances apply.

Line Voltage	Notice Zone	Growth Limit Zone
33kV	3.5 metre	2.5 metre
11kV	2.6 metre	1.6 metre
400V/230V	1.5 metre	½ metre



Tree inside the Notice Zone

Tree inside the Growth Limit Zone

## Only Authorised Workers Shall Trim Trees Close to Power Lines

Cutting any tree that is within four metres of a power line is dangerous and should only be performed by an arborist authorised by Alpine Energy. If you wish to avoid the cost of an arborist you must trim your trees before they are within four metres of power lines.

## Strong Penalties Exist to Enforce Tree Management

Tree owners have a responsibility to keep their trees clear of power lines. Alpine Energy has a responsibility to remind tree owners to trim their trees and enforce the regulations when tree owners do not comply. Alpine will remain focused on the safety and security of your power supply. If Alpine or Tree Owners do not comply with the regulations they can be fined up to \$10,000 plus up to \$500 per day for continuing an offence. Tree Owners can be liable for the cost of outages and repair of power lines when they have failed to cut their trees resulting in damage.

## What You Can Expect

Alpine has been managing tree threats to Alpine assets for many years resulting in very low power outages and total costs to consumers. Alpine intends to continue with the current policy and system of helping tree owners identify, access and remove tree threats. For more information on the regulations visit [www.alpineenergy.co.nz/trees](http://www.alpineenergy.co.nz/trees) or send a self address envelope to:

Alpine Energy – Trees  
PO Box 530  
Timaru

**We look forward to working with you to maintain a safe and reliable power supply.**