



South Central Power *Yard Trees* *Directional Pruning* FAQ Sheet

- **Why does South Central Power prune trees?**

Safety, asset protection, service reliability, and tree health.

- **Why should I let tree crews on my property to trim trees?**

Line clearing is not only important, it is necessary. Clearing areas near and around power lines helps to ensure the safety of workers and the general public. Pruning also minimizes disruption of service for members.

- **Why directional pruning?**

Directional pruning*, also known as the “Shigo Method”*, is a healthy way to ensure the tree does not grow into the power lines. After directional pruning, the tree will be less susceptible to pest and decay issues. Branches will be less likely to drop during a storm, improving safety and reliability. Directional pruning is the accepted industry standard endorsed and promoted by the [National Arbor Day Foundation](#) and the [International Society of Arboriculture](#).

- **Is it going to have an odd “V” shape? Why not just “top” them?**

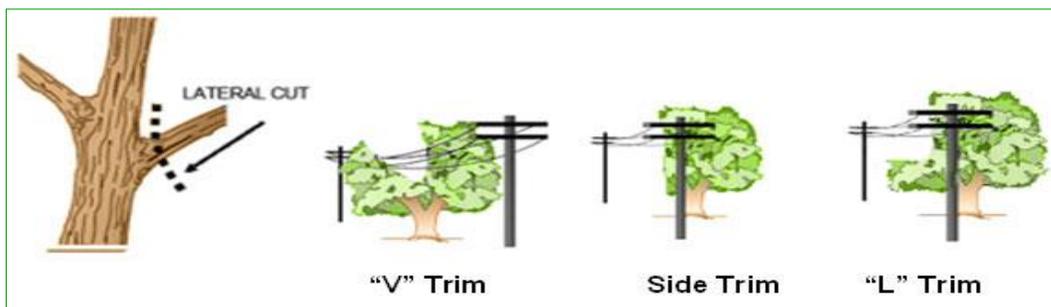
Depending on the angle at which the tree is growing into the lines, there will be a “V” shape to the tree if trimmed from the top, or an “L” shape if trimmed from the side. Directional pruning is less traumatic than “topping” for the tree, as it will be nearly as healthy as it was before the pruning. The sprouts after directional pruning will grow slower and continue to grow away from the wires. With topping, regrowth is directed back into electric lines and it occurs more quickly than with directional pruning.

- **Can I trim my own tree?**

South Central Power encourages members to prune and trim trees *before* they grow into the lines. You should never attempt to cut or trim vegetation growing on or near overhead power lines. If you have any concerns or questions, please contact our office at 1-800-282-5064.

- **Will you remove the tree, limbs, and brush from my property after pruning/removal?**

In a landscaped area, near the primary line, the tree stump will be cut as closely to the ground as possible. Larger pieces of wood will be cut into manageable links and left for the members usage or disposal; live brush will be chipped.



<http://www.utilityarborist.org>
for more information