

CREW LEADER UTILITY ARBORICULTURE

JOB DESCRIPTION

The crew leader (foreperson/supervisor) is a leadership position in the utility arboriculture profession. Duties include the supervision of the crew(s) and oversight of pruning trees for line clearance, tree removal, felling, and herbicide and tree growth regulator application. It may also supervise the activities of pre-inspectors and specialty crews. Supervisors work extensively with utility company employees, agency representatives, customers, and the public.

TYPICAL BACKGROUND

Most have a background as climbers or aerial lift operators.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Workers must be in good physical condition. A high school diploma is preferred but not always required. A Commercial Drivers License (CDL) may be required.

EDUCATION/TRAINING NEEDS

- General work site safety and hazard recognition
- Electric hazard awareness and electrical theory
- Herbicide and tree growth regulators
- Tree climbing and aerial lift techniques
- Selection and use of proper PPE
- Vehicle safety, safe operation, and safe driving
- Understanding work orders and plans
- Supervision and management
- Job briefings
- Emergency procedures
- Equipment use and safety
- Basic knots and rope operation for rigging
- Pruning principles and techniques
- Tree identification
- Tree planting and care

CERTIFICATION/LICENSES

Commercial Driver's License (CDL) recommended

Most states require certification of approved training to work near energized power lines

ISA Certified Arborist and advanced Utility Specialist certification recommended

TYPICAL FUTURE CAREER PATHS

Foreperson/supervisor is considered an advanced field occupation. These positions can advance into various other management positions within the organization. Some workers may switch to other aspects of tree care such as commercial or municipal.



EDUCATION TRAINING MATERIALS

- ANSI A300 Tree Care Standards
- ISA ArborMaster Video Series and Workbook: *Chain Saw Use and Safety*
- ANSI Z133.1 Safety Standards
- NAA Tailgate Safety Program
- Electrical Hazards Awareness Program
- NAA Video: *Chipper Use and Safety*
- NAA Video: *Chain Saw Selection and Maintenance*
- Best Management Practice: Pruning
- FANDEX Tree Identification Guide
- OSHA 29CFR 1910.269.
- ACRT: *Line Clearance Tree Trimmer Certification Manual*
- ISA: *A Handbook of Hazard Tree Evaluation for Utility Arborists*
- Shigo: *Pruning Trees Near Electric Utility Lines*