

# UTILITY ARBORIST/FORESTER

## JOB DESCRIPTION

The utility arborist/forester position is typically found working at the electric utility company. Duties can include responsibility for all utility vegetation management activities and programs at the utility company. (This person is typically referred to as the system forester or system utility arborist.) Depending on the size of the utility company and its vegetation management program, there may be several utility arborists working in the program.



## TYPICAL BACKGROUND

Workers entering at this level usually have a strong background in arboriculture/forestry and a strong understanding of electric distribution and transmission systems. Candidates for these positions can come from tree companies, forestry consulting firms, or from within the utility company.

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Workers must be in good physical condition. A college degree in a green industry field is preferred but not always required.

## EDUCATION/TRAINING NEEDS

- Electric hazard awareness
- Electrical theory & utility operations
- Emergency response & coordination
- Business management & budgeting
- Public speaking
- Forestry practices
- Proper use of herbicide and tree growth regulators
- Understanding of applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations
- Pruning principles and techniques
- Tree identification
- Customer service skills

## EDUCATION TRAINING MATERIALS

- ANSI Z133.1 Safety Standards
- NAA Tailgate Safety Program
- Electrical Hazards Awareness Program
- 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*

## CERTIFICATION/LICENSES

ISA Certified Arborist and advanced Utility Specialist designations are highly recommended. Registered Forester designation is often recommended.

## TYPICAL FUTURE CAREER PATHS

A utility arborist/forester is considered an advanced position. These individuals can progress to the system forester position or into other career opportunities available at the electric utility company.