



## Trim your trees to help avoid outages

We've been working hard to trim trees on City-owned property in preparation for winter storms, and we encourage you to do the same while keeping safe.

By clearing trees, we can avoid preventable power outages together!

Property owners are responsible for the maintenance of problematic trees causing an interference or obstruction on their property.

### Trees on City property

Every year before winter, City electricity teams trim problematic trees which grow on City-owned property.

This includes those located in footways beyond private property boundaries, mid-boundary installations, and servitudes. This work is provided for in the [annual operating budget](#).

### Trees on private property

The City may not trim trees that grow on privately-owned property unless the property owner approaches us first to request the trimming.

However, should a property owner refuse or ignore requests to trim a tree which is encroaching on electricity infrastructure and causing interference with overhead lines, resulting in power outages, the City will be forced to trim the privately-owned tree away from the City's overhead service.

In cases where the City is forced to trim a tree on privately-owned property, we may recover the cost from the property owner.

### Endangered and protected species

There are [endangered and protected species of trees](#), both privately-owned or growing on City-owned property. These trees may not be trimmed unless the work is carried out or supervised by a specialist in the field.

### According to the City's Streets Public Places and the Prevention of Noise Nuisances By-law:

- (1) Whenever there is, upon any property, any tree or other growth which interferes with overhead wires or is a source of annoyance, danger or inconvenience to persons using a public road, the City may by notice in writing order the owner or occupier of such property to prune or remove such tree or growth to the extent and within the period specified in such notice.
- (2) Any person failing to comply with a notice issued in terms of subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence.
- (3) If any person fails to comply with a notice in terms of this section, the City may itself prune or remove the tree or growth at the expense of the person on whom the notice was served.

Please see [the By-law](#) for more information -

**We thank you for helping us to trim trees!**

### Contact us

If you are concerned that there is a risk of trees on City property encroaching on City overhead power lines, report these cases to the City's Fault Reporting Centre on [0860 103 089](tel:0860103089) or [faultreporting.centre@capetown.gov.za](mailto:faultreporting.centre@capetown.gov.za)