

MEMO: CenterPoint Energy Tree Trimming Guidelines and Resident Rights

To: All Champion Forest Residents
From: Property Admin Management & HOA Board

October 28th, 2026



CenterPoint Energy and its authorized contractors routinely trim trees for infrastructure maintenance and storm preparedness to prevent outages and protect public safety. Below are its policies, property owner rights, and key safety guidelines.

Core Guidelines & CenterPoint's Authority

- **Right of Way & Easements:** Under Texas utility regulations, CenterPoint may trim or remove vegetation encroaching on or threatening high-voltage transmission lines, poles, and public rights-of-way. **Resident permission is not required** for vegetation posing a risk to electrical infrastructure.
- **No Out-of-Pocket Cost:** CenterPoint does not charge residents for typical tree trimming on existing electrical facilities.

Your Rights as a Property Owner

Despite CenterPoint's broad authority, residents have these protections:

- **Advance Notification:** Contractors must provide advance notice for routine, planned trimming, typically with crew contact information.
- **Debris Cleanup** (Routine Operations): Contractors must remove trimming debris the same day unless they directly notify you and obtain consent to leave it overnight.
- **The "Dead Tree" Exception:** CenterPoint will cut down an entirely dead tree threatening power lines at no charge, but the property owner is legally responsible for disposing of the wood left on-site.
- **Emergency Exceptions:** After major storms, high winds, or natural disasters, crews rapidly cut branches to restore emergency service. Residents must clear and dispose of all resulting debris.
- **Dispute and Assessment Requests:** If a contractor leaves a tree structurally unbalanced or you believe it needs a safety check, ***you may request a formal inspection by an assigned utility forester.*** Area Project Manager: Saul Gaona, 346-764-2051 of Sequoias Tree Expert.

Critical Safety and Maintenance Rules

- **The 10-Foot Rule:** Texas law requires untrained individuals and tools, including long pruners and pool poles, to stay at least 10 feet from overhead power lines.
- **Never Trim Near Power Lines Yourself:** Owners must maintain residential landscaping but never prune near power lines themselves: doing so risks severe injury or electrocution.
- **Call 811 Before Digging:** Before planting trees or shrubs, call Texas 811 at least two business days ahead to verify underground utility paths.
- **Street/Security Lights:** CenterPoint will *not* trim solely for light visibility—only when vegetation physically damages streetlights or wires.

Contact and Action Steps

CenterPoint Energy Customer Support Line: 713-207-2222 or 1-800-332-7143.

For trees dangerously close to power lines or trimming disputes, do not act yourself. Request a professional assessment from the CenterPoint Energy Customer Support Line at 713-207-2222 or 1-800-332-7143.