

April 2, 1999

Jim Rogers, Safety Director
Tree Care & Landscapes Unlimited, Inc.
P.O. Box 1566
Lake Oswego, Oregon 97035

Dear Mr. Rogers:

This letter is in response to your February 9th letter and the attached article (taken from the December, 1998 "National Arborist Reporter"). In your letter you ask if the information in the article is correct.

Tree trimming and tree removal, other than logging, falls under the scope of OAR437-002-0301, Oregon Rules for Ornamental Tree and Shrub Services. When work is performed by nonqualified employees within 10 feet of electrical power transmission lines, then 1910.269, Electrical Power Generation, Transmission And Distribution, applies. Other standards, such as 1910.180, Crawler Locomotive and Truck Cranes, may apply depending on the work performed.

The crane operator's comment, as reported in the article, is partially correct. Although riding a line under load is prohibited, nothing in Division 2, General Industry standards (which apply to ornamental tree cutting and removal), prohibits a crane from being used to hoist a worker into position as long as a proper attachment system and saddle (such as a boswain's chair) is used. The key phrase here is "hoist a worker into position". It does not mean that work may be performed while suspended from the line.

OR-OSHA recommends that employees be hoisted by cranes only as a last resort when there are no other safe and practical means. If employees are hoisted by cranes then OR-OSHA recommends that the following practices, outlined in Program Directive A-232 (relating to communication tower construction activities) be followed whenever applicable. A copy of Program Directive A-232 is included.

For further information contact Mike Mitchell at 378-3272. You are also invited to see the OR-OSHA pages on the Internet at the above address.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Schuster, Manager
Standards & Technical Resources Section
Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division