

PRE-INSPECTOR UTILITY ARBORICULTURE

JOB DESCRIPTION

The pre-inspector is mid-level field position in the utility arboriculture profession. Duties include pre-inspection and coordination of required line clearance work. This involves identifying work, recommending required mitigation, and obtaining appropriate permission to perform the work. It requires dealing with the public, individual customers, and close coordination with utility and contract employees and crews. An ability to work on a wide variety of special projects ranging from right-of-way logging to public education efforts is needed.



TYPICAL BACKGROUND

A Pre-Inspector can be an entry level position for college graduates, but on many occasions, these positions are filled by experienced tree climbers/forepersons and/or supervisors.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Workers must be in good physical condition. Solid customer service skills are mandatory. A high school diploma is preferred, and some companies require a college degree in a green industry field, such as forestry or arboriculture.

EDUCATION/TRAINING NEEDS

- Orientation to the tree care profession
- General work site safety and hazard recognition
- Electric hazard awareness
- Electrical theory
- Proper utilization of herbicides and tree growth regulators
- Proper pruning and removal techniques and concepts
- Selection and use of appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Back injury prevention
- Vehicle safety, safe operation, and safe driving
- Job briefings
- Emergency procedures
- Tree identification
- Tree planting and early care

EDUCATION TRAINING MATERIALS

- ANSI A300
- ANSI Z133.1 Safety Standards
- OSHA
- Electrical Hazards Awareness Program
- NAA Pocket Guides:
Identifying Hazard Trees, Preventing Electrocutation
- 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 Certifications are highly recommended

TYPICAL FUTURE CAREER PATHS

Pre-inspectors can progress into various management positions. This career path can lead to advanced jobs at the respective company or lead to a utility arborist position at an electric utility company.