

Crew Leader Utility Arboriculture

JOB DESCRIPTION

THE CREW LEADER (foreperson/supervisor) is a leadership position in the utility arboriculture profession. Duties include the supervision of the crew(s) and oversight of pruning trees for line clearance, tree removal, felling, and herbicide and tree growth regulator application. It may also supervise the activities of pre-inspectors and specialty crews. Supervisors work extensively with utility company employees, agency representatives, customers, and the public.



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TYPICAL BACKGROUND

Most have a background as climbers or aerial lift operators.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT

Commercial Driver's License (CDL) is recommended. Most states require certification of approved training to work near energized power lines. ISA Arborist Certification and advanced Utility Specialist certification are recommended.

EDUCATION/TRAINING NEEDS

- ✓ Basic knots and rope operation for rigging
- ✓ Electric hazard awareness
- ✓ Emergency procedures
- ✓ Equipment use and safety
- ✓ General work site safety
- ✓ Hazard recognition
- ✓ Herbicide and tree growth regulators
- ✓ Job briefings
- ✓ Pruning principles and techniques
- ✓ Selection and use of proper PPE
- ✓ Supervision and management
- ✓ Tree climbing and aerial lift techniques
- ✓ Tree identification
- ✓ Tree planting and care
- ✓ Understanding work orders and plans
- ✓ Vehicle safety, safe operation, and safe driving

EDUCATION TRAINING MATERIALS

- ✓ *An Illustrated Guide to Pruning* (Gilman)
- ✓ *ANSI A300 Standards for Tree Care Operations* (or applicable national standards)
- ✓ *ANSI Z133 Safety Standard for Arboricultural Operations* (or applicable national standard)
- ✓ *Arborists' Certification Study Guide* (ISA)
- ✓ *ArborMaster® Training Video Series* (ISA)
- ✓ *Best Management Practices Series* (ISA)
- ✓ *Diseases of Trees and Shrubs* (Sinclair and Lyon)
- ✓ Electrical Hazards Awareness Program
- ✓ *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants* (Dirr)
- ✓ OSHA Regulations—1910.268, 1910.269 (or applicable national working safety regulations)
- ✓ *Tree Risk Assessment Manual* (ISA)
- ✓ *Utility Specialist Certification Study Guide* (ISA)

CERTIFICATION/LICENSES

ISA Certified Arborist®, ISA Certified Arborist Utility Specialist™, ISA Certified Tree Worker Aerial Lift Specialist® and ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification credentials are recommended. CDL is required. Most states require certification of training to work near energized power lines.

TYPICAL FUTURE CAREER PATHS

Foreperson/supervisor is considered an advanced field occupation. These positions can advance into various other management positions within the organization. Some workers may switch to other aspects of tree care such as commercial or municipal operations.