

Urban Forestry Commission Position Paper on Professional Standards for Tree Pruning and Tree Removal
Adopted 2/9/11

The Seattle Urban Forestry Commission, (UFC), understands that the practice of arboriculture; i.e., tree pruning and tree removal, is one of the most dangerous occupations in the nation. The UFC recommends that the City of Seattle adopt the professional standards outlined below. The goals of these standards are to increase the level of professionalism and adherence to safe work practices among those doing the actual tree pruning and removal; to protect property owners and the general public from sub-standard performance by hired tree service contractors; and to maintain the integrity of individual trees and their contribution to a functioning urban forest.

- The tree or landscaper service company must have a current City of Seattle business license and a Washington State Contractor's license.
- The company shall have a current certificate of liability insurance on file with the City, naming the City of Seattle as additionally insured.
- Companies with employees shall show proof of worker coverage from the Washington Department of Labor and Industries.
- Companies shall comply with the American National Standards Institute, (ANSI), Z133 safety requirements for arboricultural operations, especially for tree removal, tree pruning, equipment operation, and personal protective equipment, (PPE).
- Companies shall comply with current published ANSI standards regarding tree pruning. The following are examples of published standards that arborists shall follow. Climbing spurs or hooks shall be used only for tree removal and not for tree pruning. Excessive topping or crown reduction shall not be allowed in a pruning operation.
- Companies shall comply with city traffic control and pedestrian protection requirements, when applicable.
- Companies shall be knowledgeable of all city regulations affecting the pruning and removal of trees. Companies and/or their clients shall obtain tree pruning and tree removal permits as required by city code.
- Companies shall provide at least one employee who is an ISA Certified Arborist to manage tree pruning or removal on each work site.