

Customer Requirements Vegetation Management for Underground Systems

C-UG-8000

Application

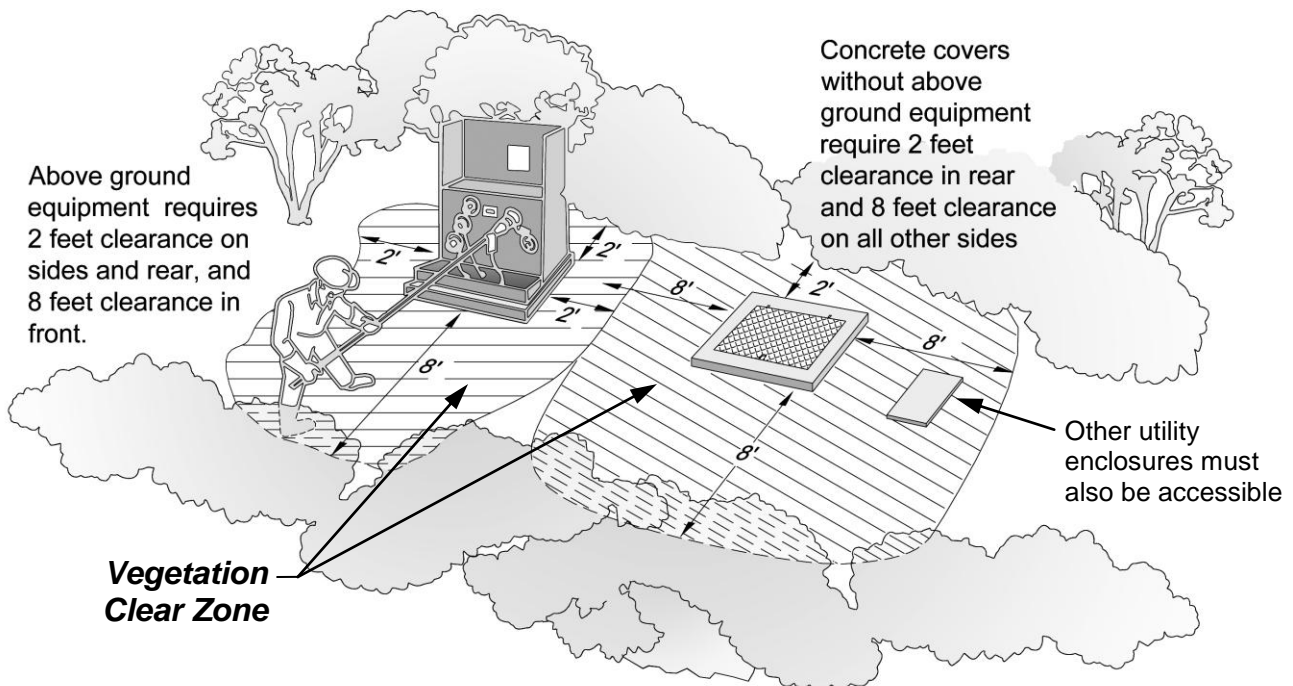
This standard is to inform Tacoma Power's customers about the requirements for vegetation adjacent to underground electrical devices.

Purpose

When this standard is adhered to, Tacoma Power will be able to operate and maintain its equipment quickly and safely. This means better reliability for customers.

Vegetation Clear Zone

Figure 1 Typical landscaping with *Vegetation Clear Zone* around electrical equipment.



WARNING!

Tacoma Power may have to remove excess vegetation in the Clear Zone during switching operations or emergency conditions.



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Vegetation Clear Zone *(continued)*

What is a Vegetation Clear Zone? The **Vegetation Clear Zone** is the area adjacent to electrical and communication equipment that needs to be kept clear for our electrical crews to work safely and efficiently.

Not Allowed Shrubs, trees, and any structures such as buildings, fences, mail boxes, rockeries, berms or decks that would extend into the clearance area. Also, take care that bark, sod, mulch, and other landscaping materials don't cover any electrical devices or enclosures.

Acceptable Grass, gravel, and low-growing ground covers.

Planting Tips

- Don't change grade levels around utility devices.
- Allow room for plants to grow and mature.
- Remember to keep all utility equipment accessible for service at all times.
- Never dispose of liquids through grates of below-grade transformers.

For More Information

- Call (253) 502-8469, Tacoma Power Grounds Maintenance Department, for more information on acceptable plants and clearances.
- Call 811 or (800) 424-5555 to contact the Utilities Underground Location Center to have all local utilities contacted free of charge.
