

Elwood's TREE SERVICE

To The City of Salem

The city of Salem is facing a critical issue with a Japanese Pagoda Tree that has been planted in the wrong location, causing damage to utility wires. The tree has been previously mutilated by utility workers over the years, leading to severe decay in its stems making them hazardous. This report will address the need for the removal of this tree and explore potential excuses that can be used to justify its removal. In addition, our customer was cited by the City of Salem for the condition of the landscape in the front of 3785 D ST NE. This citation is the primary reason for our client reaching out to us as they will be renovating the landscape and are hoping to remove this Japanese Pagoda and replace it with a better suited Native Dogwood. Given the power lines over head a Native Dogwood would mitigate the issues posed by aggressive utility pruning, and also promote native tree growth within our neighborhoods of Salem.

Background: The tree in question was planted under power lines, a clear violation of city ordinances that dictate appropriate planting locations for trees near utility infrastructure. The tree has grown significantly over the years. Not only has the tree now reached a height that is imposing a risk to the utility wires, but with previous mutilation by utility workers it is now predominantly over developed epicormic growth that has a shallow bond to the tree posing high failure risk in storm events. This "pruning" by the utility workers is also the cause for what decay the tree faces with large cuts that did not fully compartmentalize over the wound leading to the present and future decaying of the stems and trunk.

Reasons for removal:

1. **Safety Hazard-** The tree's proximity to the utility wires poses a significant safety hazard, as any failure or its weakened stems could result in damage to the wires and potential power outages in the area.
2. **Violation of City Ordinances-** The trees' location under the power lines is a clear violation of city ordinances, which dictate appropriate planting locations for trees near utility infrastructure.
3. **Decay and Structural Instability-** The tree's stems have been severely compromised by years of mutilation and decay, making them hazardous and prone to failure.

Excuses for Removal:

1. **Safety Concern-** The safety of residents and utility workers should be the top priority, and the removal of the tree is necessary to prevent potential accidents or damage to utility infrastructure.
2. **Compliance with City Ordinances-** The city has a clear ordinance in place regarding the planting of trees near utility infrastructure, and the removal of this tree is necessary to ensure compliance with these regulations.
3. **Preservation of Utility Infrastructure-** The removal of the tree is essential to protect the integrity of the utility wires and prevent potential power outages in the area.

Conclusion: In conclusion, the Japanese Pagoda Tree growing under the power lines in Salem poses a significant risk to utility wires and must be removed to prevent further damage and ensure the safety of residents and utility workers. By citing safety concerns, compliance with city ordinances, and the preservation of utility infrastructure, the City of Salem can justify the removal of this tree and take necessary steps to address this critical issue.

Sincerely,


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