

An Initiative of the California Workforce Development Board

The IBEW 1245 tree trimmer project expands training and education opportunities to prepare job seekers for position in line clearance tree trimming and vegetation management. This project will prioritize services in high-fire risk rural areas in the State’s northern regions, and will build and expand connections to education partners in those regions. Entry level students will come from the area that is served by electric utilities. Graduates from the program will be recognized nationwide by the IBEW as a Journeyman Tree Trimmers. As they continue in their career, they typically move up into foreman and management positions. The Line Clearance Tree Trimmer program will provide the industry with safe, well trained and productive workers.

This training program is based on an “Earn While You Learn” model. Since the training is both on-the-job and related supplemental instruction, students will be full-time paid employees working for the Line Clearance Tree Trimming contractors. The training will be mostly on-the-job as well as additional related supplemental instruction in both classroom and field “lab” settings. The agreements now in place between IBEW Local Union 1245 and the Line Clearance Tree Trimming contractors provide funding to the program by these contractors. With this grant funding, the program can begin much sooner rather than waiting for the contributions to build up enough capital to start. Within a relative short time, the operation will be financially self-sustaining.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Project will train 2000 participants and provide them with educational materials such as workbooks, as well as training tools and equipment such as PPE, climbing saddles, ropes/rigging, saws, etc.
- Program will partner with California Community Colleges with tree trimming courses to expand in the future and recruit and train students from local areas around the State.
- Initially, participants will come from all over PG&E’s service territory and later expand to other California utilities such as Southern California Edison, San Diego Gas and Electric, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power as they expand their Vegetation Management programs.
- The California Nevada Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee (Cal Nevada JATC) will track type and number of hours worked and every six months, successful students they will be advanced up to the next step level with commensurate pay increase and additional responsibility. Upon successful completion of all training elements, trainees will be reclassified to Journeyman Tree Trimmer.

KEY PARTNERS

- IBEW 1245
- California/Nevada Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee (CalNevada JATC)
- Tree Trimming Contractors
- Butte Community College and additional Community Colleges