

## Utility Arborist | Forester

### JOB DESCRIPTION

**T**HE UTILITY ARBORIST/FORESTER typically works at the electric utility company. Duties may include responsibility for all utility vegetation management activities and programs at the utility company, such as electrical line clearance, tree maintenance, advising clients on suitable tree species in areas near power lines, etc. This professional is typically referred to as the system forester or system utility arborist. Depending on the size of the utility company and its vegetation management program, there may be several utility arborists working in the program.



International Society of Arboriculture

### TYPICAL BACKGROUND

Workers entering at this level usually have a strong background in arboriculture/forestry and a strong understanding of electric distribution and transmission systems. Candidates for these positions can come from tree companies, forestry consulting firms, or from within the utility company.

### EDUCATION/TRAINING NEEDS

- ✓ Business management & budgeting
- ✓ Customer service skills
- ✓ Electric hazard awareness
- ✓ Electrical theory & utility operations
- ✓ Emergency response & coordination
- ✓ Forestry practices
- ✓ Proper use of herbicide and tree growth regulators
- ✓ Pruning principles and techniques
- ✓ Public speaking
- ✓ Tree identification
- ✓ Understanding of applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations

### EDUCATION TRAINING MATERIALS

- ✓ *A Photographic Guide to the Evaluation of Hazard Trees in Urban Areas* (Matheny and Clark)
- ✓ *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 Practice: Pruning* (ISA)
- ✓ Electrical Hazards Awareness Program
- ✓ *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants* (Dirr)
- ✓ OSHA Regulations—1910.268, 1910.269 (or applicable national working safety regulations)
- ✓ *Utility Pruning: A Video Guide DVD and Workbook* (ISA)
- ✓ *Utility Specialist Certification Study Guide* (ISA)

### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT

A college degree in the green industry field is recommended.

### CERTIFICATION/LICENSES

ISA Certified Arborist®, ISA Certified Arborist Utility Specialist™ and ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification credentials are strongly recommended.

### TYPICAL FUTURE CAREER PATHS

A utility arborist/forester is considered an advanced position. These professionals can progress to the system forester position or into other career opportunities available at the electric utility company.