



January 18, 2021

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Mr. Tom Cochran  
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To the National Organizations Representing State and Local Government Leaders:

On behalf of the Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA) and the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), thank you for your leadership and for your work to help your members continue to respond to, and recover from, the COVID-19 pandemic. TCIA and ISA have members in all 50 states and represent the interests of the entire arboriculture industry including hundreds of thousands of essential workers. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, these workers have continued to clear powerlines and roads to secure operation of the Nation's critical infrastructure against wildfires, hurricanes, winter storms, and other natural disasters and ensure the safety of their communities by addressing hazards posed by damaged trees.

From the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, every jurisdiction that issued an order limiting activities and work recognized the need for our industry to continue to work through the pandemic. Regardless of how different jurisdictions defined *essential work* or *essential worker*, or even how states interpreted the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) "[Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce Guidance](#)", there was one constant throughout the pandemic—specific services our members provide were always authorized due to the essential aspects of the work the industry performs.

As the COVID-19 vaccine rollout ramps up, we write to ask that your members designate essential workers in the tree care industry, who have worked through the COVID-19 pandemic in support of critical infrastructure and public safety, as high priority for vaccination against COVID-19. Tree care industry



workers in essential sectors—see attached for a detailed analysis of the essential services workers in the tree care industry conduct to maintain resilience of National Critical Functions—should be considered for prioritized vaccine access. These workers ensure that their communities are safe, critical infrastructure is protected, and our nation’s supply chain is protected. None of this work can be completed from home, and this work often requires specific expertise that cannot be easily replicated.

Thank you again for your work to prioritize health and safety and for your assistance with this urgent request. TCIA and ISA are honored by the role our industry plays in supporting our communities, and we look forward to doing our part to help the U.S. recover from this pandemic.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to TCIA (Aiden O'Brien, Advocacy & Standards Manager – 603-314-5380) or ISA (Alice Bagley, Director of Marketing & Communications – 678-367-0981, ext. 208) directly with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

David White, CAE  
President & CEO  
Tree Care Industry Association

Caitlyn Pollihan, CAE  
Executive Director  
International Society of Arboriculture

## Essential Services Conducted by the Tree Care Industry for National Critical Functions

### **1) Healthcare and Public Health**

- Any tree care deemed necessary to allow the hospital or emergency care services to function (trees dangerous to entry ways, parking areas, ambulance service areas)

### **2) Law Enforcement, Public Safety, and Other First Responders**

- Any service that supports law enforcement, EMS, or first responders, such as clearing roads for emergency access, or to avoid further damage; or pruning/removing tree hazards in public right-of-ways.

### **3) Food and Agriculture**

- Any service involving the cultivation, sanitation, maintenance or transportation of any crop or horticultural commodity.

### **4) Energy**

- Any tree care that supports the reliability of any nuclear, fossil fuel, electric, hydroelectric, wind, solar, geothermal, biomass, petroleum, wholesale or retail fuel center, pipeline, natural gas, or other power plant, including transmission and distribution line vegetation management.
- Any tree care necessary for wildfire prevention.

### **5) Water and Wastewater**

- Any tree care necessary to support the continued water or wastewater service.

### **6) Transportation and Logistics**

- Any tree care necessary to support transportation and logistics functions for bus drivers, maintenance and repair technicians, warehouse workers, towing companies, or truck stops.
- Any tree care necessary to maintain the safety of vehicle repair services.

### **7) Public Works and Infrastructure Support Services**

- Any tree care or landscaping work necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences, business, or buildings.
- Any tree care or landscaping work needed to eradicate or contain the spread of invasive insects, plants and other pests.
- Any work transporting green waste to co-generation, recycling, or disposal facilities.

### **8) Communications and Information Technology**

- Any work which supports the maintenance of trees for private or public communication systems, or satellite systems

### **9) Other Community or Government Based Operations**

- Any tree care necessary to maintain environmental controls such as HVAC on community or government buildings.

#### **10) Critical Manufacturing**

- Any tree care services necessary to maintain the safety of manufacturing plants of medical supplies, chemical manufacturing, food supply chains, or equipment necessary to maintain those manufacturing plants.

#### **11) Hazardous Materials**

- Any emergency pesticide spill response services

#### **12) Financial Services**

- Any tree care necessary to maintain the safety for banking centers.

#### **13) Chemical**

- Any support for the transportation of chemicals
- Any tree care services supporting the operation and maintenance of facilities or sites with high-risk chemicals.
- Any tree care services to provide safety where chlorine is stored or produced.

#### **14) Defense Industrial Base**

- Any tree care services that support the DOD, military or any DOD or military contractor manufacturing supplies or performing services under contract with the DOD or military.

#### **15) Commercial Facilities**

- Any tree care services that help maintain the supply chain of building supplies from production through delivery.
- Any tree care services that support the delivery of essential goods to the market.

#### **16) Residential Shelter Facilities, Housing and Real Estate, and Related Services**

- Any tree care services providing safety to elderly or disabled housing.
- Any tree care pest control services

#### **17) Hygiene Products and Services**

- Any disinfectant services