

Guidelines for inspecting your trees

As part of their natural life cycle, trees will fall or break apart. In our urban environments, that can lead to property damage, personal injuries and power outages.

Given the right circumstances, even seemingly healthy trees can fail, making hazards unpredictable. However, by inspecting trees for common structural defects, many potential failures can be corrected before they cause damage or injury.

What to look for

Look at the entire tree for these defects, which may be indicators of a potential failure:

- A recent change in the lean of a tree
- Multiple trunks or co-dominant stems with narrow angles of attachment
- Weakly attached branches or heavy end weight
- Large cavities and evidence of decay
- Cracks or splits in the trunk or branches
- Loose or broken branches
- Dead trunks or branches

If you find any defects in a tree that has the potential to break onto a power line, please contact us so a PGE forester can inspect the tree and offer advice or assistance.

Contact our team

For questions about safety and maintenance, call the PGE Vegetation Management team at **503-736-5460**.

When and how to inspect

- Trees should be inspected on a regular basis and before and after stormy weather
- Large trees have a greater hazard potential and should be inspected in greater detail
- Inspect from the ground; binoculars may be helpful
- Consider hiring a qualified arborist for an aerial inspection

If you determine that a tree is hazardous, keep people, pets and vehicles out of the way and contact PGE.

