

Continuing Training and Education:

Continuing education has never before been so important to the utility arborist industry. Our ability to learn, adapt and change in response to a rapidly changing world will have a major impact on the future of utility arborist workers, and the organizations in which they serve.

Training and education is an ongoing process that includes many measurable levels of knowledge, skill and ability. Even upon reaching a mastery skill level, changes in the industry, technology, and work processes will require the utility arborist, regardless of skill level, to be engaged in some form of continuous learning. Ongoing industry research and development relating to knowledge of the work, tools, equipment, and work techniques will continue to advance the utility arborist industry over time. To ensure that utility arborist workers continue to develop to their fullest potential, it is essential that a component of continuous learning be given consideration during, and after, any defined training and development program in the utility arborist industry.

There are several ways to include a continuing education component in your training and education program. Generally, an analysis of the need for continuing education and training along with a review of available resources will help determine what is appropriate for the learning environment. Some examples of continuing training and educational resources may include: industry certification and re-certification (ISA certification pyramid); post-secondary learning institutions; in-house training and developmental programs; industry associations; training companies and external training programs; regulatory agencies; self-paced learning media; internet distance learning; on-the-job training; individual development planning; and, many other industry training and educational resources. A list containing many of these resources has been provided herein for your convenience.

References available for training in utility line clearance

1. *Utility Specialist Certification Study Guide*, ISA.
2. Arboriculture—Integrated Management of Landscape Trees, Shrubs and Vines, Harris, Clark and Matheny.
3. ANSI A300 Part 1 – Pruning
4. Utility Pruning Best Management Practices, ISA
5. ANSI Z133.1 Safety Standard for Tree Care Operations
6. ACRT Line Clearance Manual, ACRT
7. OSHA Regulations - 910.268, 1910.269, 1910.331-1910.335, from the Federal Government.
8. Tree Climbers Guide, 3rd Edition – Lilly, ISA
9. A Handbook for Hazard Tree Evaluation for Utility Arborists – Clark and Matheny, ISA