

TREE TRIMMER I

Job Summary:

Under supervision, performs a variety of semi-skilled and skilled maintenance duties including trimming and pruning trees and planting, transplanting and staking trees; operates and maintains equipment such as pole loppers and pole saws; trims or prunes trees from the ground, ladders or aerial equipment and with the aid of climbers, ropes and saddle, and belts; assists in performing tree surgery.

Distinguishing Characteristics:

This is the first experienced level class in the Tree Trimmer Job Series. Incumbents typically have appropriate specialized training with job related experience. Employees within this class are distinguished from Tree Trimmer II by the performance of the work assigned to the journey level, but without the independence or full responsibility expected of positions at the journey level. Assignments are generally limited in scope and are set within a procedural framework established by the supervisor. As experience increases, the incumbent performs with increasing independence and becomes proficient by demonstrating those skills necessary to perform as a Tree Trimmer II.

Incumbents in this classification must complete two years in this classification, must meet the minimum qualifications of Tree Trimmer II and must meet the Job Series guidelines to promote to Tree Trimmer II.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

(These functions are representative and may not be present in all positions in the class. Management reserves the right to add, modify, change or rescind related duties and work assignments.)

1. Trims, prunes and maintains street and park trees, working the ground, ladders or aerial equipment, with the aid of climbers, ropes and saddle, and belts.
2. Loads, transports and unloads trees, equipment and supplies from vehicles.
3. Operates a chipper machine for the disposal of debris; sweeps work area to keep free from debris, may also operate stump grinder and other power equipment.
4. Diverts traffic flow to gain access to parkways by applying principles of the Work Area Traffic Control Manual.
5. Assists in checking location of power lines, pedestrians, equipment and traffic before cutting limbs to protect from falling debris; removes weeds from around the tree area.
6. Digs holes using power auger to prepare area for tree planting.
7. Plants, transplants and stakes trees and backfills with soil; cleans area after planting.
8. Performs minor maintenance on power equipment such as lubricating and adding oil and water.
9. Maintains logs on mileage, equipment usage and types of tree serviced.
10. Sharpens hand tools using a grinding stone or hand file.
11. Waters and fertilizes trees using water truck.
12. Assists in performing tree surgery.
13. Performs related duties as required.

Qualification Guidelines

A typical way to obtain the requisite qualifications to perform the duties of this class is as follows:

Education and Experience:

Completion of high school or GED which ensures the ability to read and write at a level necessary for successful job performance and one (1) year of full-time experience performing tree trimming, removal and planting. Related vocational or college course work is desirable.

Knowledge of:

- Basic methods, techniques and tools used in tree maintenance work.
- Applicable sections of the California Vehicle Code and Work Area Traffic Control Manual.
- Appropriate health and safety practices and procedures.
- Characteristics of ornamental and shade trees common to the area.
- Basic record-keeping techniques.
- Methods used in the care, trimming, spraying, climbing, planting, removal and surgery of trees.
- Knowledge of emergency tree removal or trimming.

Skill and Ability to:

- Perform semi-skilled and skilled tree maintenance duties including light and heavy trimming pursuant to International Society of Arboriculture standards.
- Operate a variety of tree maintenance tools and equipment safely and efficiently.
- Maintain tools, equipment and vehicles in clean and proper working condition.
- Identify and maintain ornamental and shade trees common to the area.
- Work from ladders, aerial equipment and in high places.
- Observe safety practices and procedures and set up proper cones, barricades and other safety protection.
- Observe legal defensive and safe driving practices.
- Maintain routine records.
- Lift objects weighting up to 75 pounds.
- Perform heavy manual labor.
- Establish and maintain cooperative and effective working relationships with others.
- Respond to emergencies to perform tree maintenance, trimming or removal.

License or Certificate:

Possession of a valid California Class A or B driver's license. Employees in this classification will be enrolled in the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Government Employer Pull Notice Program, which confirms possession of a valid driver's license and reflects driving record, and the Department of Transportation (DOT) Drug Testing Program. Ability to obtain an International Society of Arboriculture Tree Worker Certificate is desirable.

Special Requirements:

Ability to pass a physical examination for strenuous/arduous labor.

Physical Requirements and Working Conditions:

Employee accommodations for physical disabilities will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Positions in this class normally:

- Require mobility to stand, stoop, reach, twist and bend.
- Require mobility of arms to reach above shoulder level and dexterity of hands to grasp and manipulate small objects.
- Require the ability to stand for long periods and walk long distances.
- Require mental alertness to drive safely and operate equipment safely.
- Require the ability to drive equipment which requires a class A or B driver's license.
- Perform work which involves the frequent lifting, pushing and/or pulling of objects which may approximate 75 pounds and may occasionally weigh up to 100 pounds.
- May be required to work in inclement weather without effective protection from sun, cold and rain.
- May be required to respond to tree-related emergencies, including removal of trees or branches in the public right-of-way, during normal hours or on emergency call back.
- May be required to work with harsh and toxic substances.
- May be required to wear a uniform, safety shoes, protective apparel including goggles, face protectors, aprons and oxygen breathing apparatus.
- May be required to work within enclosed spaces or at heights above ground level.
- May be required to work around loud noise.
- May be required to work around moving mechanical parts.
- May be required to work around electrical currents.
- May be required to work overtime after regular work hours, including weekends.