Both sides must develop an understanding of the problem and work together to formulate long-term solutions. Emergency response managers must begin to communicate directly with decision makers who select street tree species and location. Should develop temporary strategies for dealing with the problems of street tree interference. In any case, public works and emergency response managers should consider the community by changing their usual methods.

This issue must be resolved at the policy making level in each community. Emergency equipment that is suitable for use on narrow streets and under low hanging branches is certainly available for purchase. But public works and emergency response departments should be aware of this availability and work together to ensure proper planning.

HEALTH. CORRECT TREE PLANTING METHODS SHOULD BE ENFORCED

STREET TREES MUST BE INSTALLED CORRECTLY FOR LONG TERM

PROPERLY PRUNED TREES

issues. Provide specific information about which tree trimming methods your community endorses, and educate representatives about the repercussions of improper pruning. For instance, overly aggressive tree trimming can result in undesirable tree growth patterns that create more hazards over the long term. If results are not immediate, keep up your effort and try other tactics. Ignoring the problem is never a successful strategy.

Many older communities have issues with overhead wires along streets. The planting of large shade trees directly under overhead wires should be avoided so that tree limbs do not interfere with overhead utility service in the future. Communities that want to plant large trees along streets with overhead wires should choose species that will tolerate some pruning, place the trees near overhead lines but not right under them, and take responsibility for coordinating their proper pruning with utility companies. Otherwise, they should select smaller trees to plant below overhead wires.

Many people are outraged when they see improper pruning and tree trimming around overhead wires. In the worst cases, improper tree trimming is an assault to the tree and to our sensibilities. At the same time, the frequency of power outages caused by severe thunderstorms and ice storms in New Jersey makes tree clearing around power lines a priority for the community. In this case, power companies must take responsibility for pruning because it is a dangerous job and proper training and certifications are required to undertake the work.

Most utility companies pay private contractors to do this work. Although the utility companies look for properly qualified contractors, they do not always oversee the work themselves. As a result, they do not have good quality control, and improper tree trimming around power lines becomes a problem. There are two approaches that communities can take to address the problem. One is to regulate tree trimming around power lines by requiring a tree trimming permit to be obtained before the start of work. The other is to have a qualified professional meet directly with both the power company representative and the contractor who will be doing the work before work begins. Utility companies are set up to deal with both of these processes, and it is the best chance a community has for quality control during tree trimming.

During these meetings the town should convey to the tree trimming contractor those pruning techniques the town finds acceptable and those it does not. The contractor should be given the contact information for a qualified professional working on behalf of the town. If the contractor has a problem in the field, the qualified professional should be available to visit the site and participate in the decision making process while the work is in progress. Make sure the work is scheduled when the township representative is available to respond quickly to these types of requests by the tree trimming contractor.
TREES PLANTED NEAR UTILITY LINES ARE OFTEN IMPROPERLY PRUNED

NEWLY PLANTED STREET TREES SHOULD NOT BE LOCATED DIRECTLY BELOW OVERHEAD POWERLINES

IMPROPERLY PRUNED TREE UNDERNEATH OVERHEAD POWERLINES

MANAGING PUBLICLY OWNED LANDS

Because of the recent opportunities for open space acquisition, some municipalities in New Jersey may be addressing management of extensive tree and woodland holdings for the first time, whether they have planned for it or not. Many towns are preparing open space plans in response to the opportunities for the purchase of open space offered by the State of New Jersey. In addition to these plans, which typically prioritize land parcels for purchase, communities will find that they need to prepare a land management plan for all open space areas. This plan can include maintenance goals and strategies for all tree and woodland resources. It should contain basic budget estimates and realistic staffing and training needs.

The management of forests and woodlands is complex. Woodlands need to be actively managed to provide habitat for plants and wildlife. Management techniques should maintain or improve the diversity and health of flora and fauna. A woodland management plan prepared by a qualified professional will help municipalities define their role and long-term management costs. Preparing and implementing a woodland management plan is a long-term financial commitment that should not be taken lightly. However, the management of publicly owned land will benefit generations to come.
In general, local public works departments should be educated about working around existing trees. Like builders, they are often responsible for installing curbs, roadways, and utilities in areas with trees and woodlands. Many crews are not aware that their construction practices are contributing to the decline or death of mature trees. Crews responsible for working around trees should be properly trained to understand how to conserve existing trees, and when to call a tree care professional for advice. Many departments are aware of training needs, but do not have sufficient budgets to provide the proper training to staff members. Governing bodies must provide resources to these departments to support community forestry.

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