

**WAC 296-32-23523 Storm work and emergency conditions.** (1) Since storm work and emergency conditions create special hazards, only authorized representatives of the electric utility system operator/owner or a qualified tree trimmer per chapter 296-45 WAC and not telecommunication employees may perform tree work in these situations where energized electrical power conductors are involved.

(2) When an emergency condition develops due to tree operations, work must be suspended and the electric utility system operator/owner must be notified immediately.

(3) Telecommunication employers must not allow their employees to perform any storm damage work until given the all clear that it is safe to enter an area by the electrical utility system operator/owner.

(4) During storm damage recovery operations and after the utility has given the all clear, all employees working on communications suspension strand and conductive cables must use insulated gloves and an approved voltage detector (20 kV) to test for voltage.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050, and 49.17.060. WSR 20-20-109, § 296-32-23523, filed 10/6/20, effective 11/6/20. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050, 49.17.060, and chapter 49.17 RCW. WSR 17-20-069, § 296-32-23523, filed 10/2/17, effective 1/1/18.]