

**CLASS SPECIFICATION**

6/14/01

TREE SURGEON, 3114

Summary of Duties: Climbs, prunes, trims, treats, sprays, plants, transplants and removes trees along City streets, in City parks, over private property and on public grounds to eliminate hazardous conditions, prevent interference with traffic, traffic signals and overhead lines and equipment and to preserve and maintain the trees.

Distinguishing Features: A Tree Surgeon prunes trees to improve their appearance and health or to eliminate hazards and prevent interference with traffic, traffic signals or utility lines and equipment. The work of a Tree Surgeon is normally closely supervised. However, an incumbent of this class may occasionally work without supervision. An employee of this class may work at various heights, on congested streets, in recreational areas, or on private property, near energized lines, and may be exposed to toxic sprays and poison oak.

Example of Duties:

- Prunes ornamental and shade trees to improve their appearance, health, and safety;
- Boxes, balls and plants trees of various sizes;
- Climbs trees by using ropes, harnesses, safety belts, ladders, and climbing spurs;
- Removes tree tops, dead or damaged branches, limbs and palm fronds using a variety of hand and power tools and equipment for traffic and traffic control devices, and utility lines and utility rights-of-way;
- May be responsible for identifying high voltage lines;
- May act as a lead worker in directing the activities and training of Tree Surgeon Assistants;
- May cable and brace trees and branches;
- May operate power equipment in spraying trees and shrubs to control insects and diseases and in spraying for weed control;
- Sprays foliage for growth control;
- Injects chemicals into the tree or into the soil;
- Fertilizes trees manually or with a fertilizing gun sprayer or air drill;
- Aerates or sterilizes soil;
- Maintains hand tools;
- May drive and operate aerial-lift vehicles, booms, chippers, and chipper trucks;
- May occasionally be assigned to other duties for training purposes or to meet technological changes or emergencies.

Qualifications**Knowledge of:**

- Proper pruning techniques and the use of ropes, saws, aerial lifts, and other equipment and tools used in tree pruning and removal work;
- Hazards involved and safety precautions necessary in climbing, pruning, and removing limbs, especially when working near energized lines;
- Tree maintenance, preservation and removal techniques and procedures, including pruning, spraying, treating, bracing, boxing, moving, aerating, fumigating, fertilizing, and soil and planting requirements;
- Insects, parasites, and diseases which attack trees, shrubs and lawns, pests which may infest public buildings and public grounds, and the composition and uses of insecticides, fungicides, and disinfectants for their control;
- Clearance requirements for various types of trees to eliminate interferences with vehicles and pedestrian traffic, traffic signals, and overhead utility lines operating at various voltages;
- Strength of trees, the best methods to be employed in climbing trees, and the seasons of the year which are best suited for trimming various types of trees;
- Measures required to protect workers and the public during tree maintenance work;
- Characteristics and common and botanical names of trees and shrubs found in Southern California;
- Safety principles and practices;
- Construction of overhead utility lines;
- Growth habits of trees under various conditions which prevail throughout the Los Angeles area;
- Methods and materials used in the treatment of tree wounds resulting from pruning trees;
- Charter provisions, laws, ordinances, and policies pertaining to the pruning, maintenance, treatment and removal of trees in the City.

Ability to:

- Recognize and identify tree diseases and infestations;
- Use ropes and knots, blocks and tackle, hand and power saws, aerial lifts, power winches, booms and similar tools and equipment;
- Climb trees and work above ground with the use of spurs or climbers, ropes, ladders, safety belts, and similar equipment;
- Deal tactfully and effectively with other employees and the public;
- Keep records and write reports;
- Recognize the voltage of various power lines.

Requirements: Eighteen months of full-time paid experience as a Tree Surgeon Assistant or in a class at that level with tree trimming experience; **or** eighteen months of full-time paid experience as a tree trimmer or tree surgeon; **or** possession of a current International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Tree Worker Certification. Some positions require eighteen months of training and on-the-job experience which provides familiarity with the special techniques and hazards involved in line clearance tree trimming.

License: A valid California Class B or 2 drivers license with medical certificate is required. Some positions may require a Qualified Applicator Certificate issued by the State of California Department of Pesticide Regulation.

Persons with disabilities may be able to perform the essential duties of this class with reasonable accommodation. Reasonable accommodation will be evaluated on an individual basis and depend, in part, on the specific requirements for the job, the limitations related to the disability, and the ability of the hiring department to reasonably accommodate the limitations.

As provided in Civil Service Commission Rule 2.5 and Section 4.55 of the Administrative Code, this specification is descriptive, explanatory and not restrictive. It is not intended to declare what all of the duties, responsibilities, and required qualifications of any position shall be.