

City of South San Francisco
Human Resources Department

Tree Trimmer
Class Description

Definition

Under general direction, climbs and trims ornamental and shade trees; performs basic tree surgery; assists in planting and caring for trees and shrubbery; and does related work as required.

Distinguishing Characteristics

This is the experienced classification performing the more specialized, skilled, and difficult types of park maintenance and tree trimming work, performing aerial tree trimming activities and certified to perform rescue operations.

Typical and Important Duties

1. Climbs and trims trees, using ropes and saddle or other equipment.
2. Operates aerial tower truck.
3. Removes diseased, dead, or excess limbs or branches.
4. Tops, braces, and cables ornamental and shade trees.
5. Treats cut tree surfaces.
6. Rigs slings and lines to cut limbs and branches as required.
7. As required, trims trees from the ground; picks up trimmings and loads onto a truck.
8. May supervise others assigned to tree trimming in cutting, loading, and cleaning up debris after tree removal.
9. Operates power saw, wood chipper, hand and pole saws, and other power equipment and tools.
10. Performs related duties and responsibilities as assigned.

Job-related Qualifications

Knowledge of:

- Names, characteristics, growth requirements, and care of the more common types of ornamental and shade trees and shrubs in the community.
- Materials, equipment, and methods used in the care, trimming, and removal of trees.
- Techniques of rigging, bracing, and cabling trees.

Ability to:

- Work at a considerable height above the ground in a confident manner.
- Train and direct others in trimming work.
- Use ropes, spurs, and other tree trimming equipment.
- Operate aerial tower truck.
- Operate park maintenance equipment.

- Communicate effectively in writing, orally, and with others to assimilate, understand, and convey information, in a manner consistent with job functions.
- Effectively use tools and equipment.
- Perform heavy physical and manual labor.
- Use initiative and independent judgment within established policy and procedural guidelines.
- Represent the City, the department, or the organizational unit effectively in contacts with representatives of other agencies, City departments, and the public.
- Establish and maintain cooperative relationships with those contacted in the course of the work.
- Take a proactive approach to customer service issues.
- Make process improvement changes to streamline procedures.
- Maintain confidentiality regarding sensitive information.
- Organize own work, set priorities, meet critical deadlines, and follow-up on assignments with a minimum of direction.
- Work in a safe manner, following City safety practices and procedures.

Skill in:

- Driving a variety of vehicles safely.

Experience and Training

Any combination of experience and training that would provide the required knowledge, skills, and abilities would be qualifying. A typical way to obtain the knowledge, skills, and abilities would be:

Experience:

Two years of progressively more responsible experience in the climbing and trimming of trees and in operating equipment.

Training:

Equivalent to graduation from high school. Completion of an apprenticeship or recognized course of at least a year's duration in tree surgery may be substituted for one year of the required experience.

Licenses and Certificates

All licenses and certificates must be maintained as a condition of employment.

- Possession of or ability to obtain, an appropriate, valid California driver's license and a satisfactory driving record.
- Equivalent to or possession of an ACRT line clearance/rescue certification.
- Possession of an American Red Cross First Aid/CPR certification.

Special Requirements

Essential duties require the following physical skills and work environment:

Physical Skills:

Able to sit, stand, walk, kneel, crouch, stoop, squat, crawl, twist, and climb; lift and carry 75 pounds; dexterity to drive trucks and large vehicles; distinguish among various colors; distinguish various computer generated auditory signals; use common hand tools; vision to read printed materials and a computer screen; hearing and speech to communicate in person and over the telephone.

Work Environment:

Work in a shop and field setting; exposure to inclement weather, to cold, heat, noise, outdoors, dust, dirt, vibration, chemicals, traffic, traffic hazards, confining workspace, mechanical hazards, electrical hazards, and explosive hazards; work from considerable height above the ground.

Ability to:

Travel to different sites and locations; drive safely to different sites and locations; maintain a safe driving record; maintain a clean and neat appearance; work protracted and irregular hours; respond to a pager; take 24-hour call and stand-by; available for evening meetings; available for unusual hours in emergencies.

Additional Information:

- Approved: April 1994
- Revised Date: April 1995; December 2001, June 2003, February 2025
- Former Titles:
- Abolished:
- Bargaining Unit: AFSCME
- DOT: Yes
- Status: Classified/Non-exempt
- Job Code: A375