

TREE SURGEON

DEFINITION

Performs basic tree surgery and skilled tree trimming.

TYPICAL DUTIES

Trims, prunes, shapes, and fells trees.
Plants and transplants trees, balling and boxing trees when necessary.
Cleans, treats, and fills tree cavities.
Eliminates hazardous conditions by cabling and bracing trees or removing branches.
Prunes, trims, and shapes vines and shrubbery and strips vines from buildings.
Operates hand and power tools and equipment, including those used in cutting and chipping tree trunks and branches.
Operates a truck and aerial boom for tree pruning.
Operates stump grinding equipment and track loaders.
Feeds branches into a chipper.
Loads trees, branches, and debris into trucks and cleans up grounds.
Performs minor maintenance and sharpening of hand and power tools.
Performs minor repairs to safety belts and other climbing apparatus.
May aerate soil around trees and large shrubs.
May perform deep irrigation and fertilization of trees.
Performs related duties as assigned.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS AMONG RELATED CLASSES

A Tree Surgeon trims, shapes, and prunes trees and performs basic tree surgery.

A Senior Tree Surgeon supervises a crew performing tree trimming and tree surgery, performs the more skilled work, and assists the Tree Maintenance Supervisor by inspecting trees and estimating work costs.

A Gardener performs maintenance gardening for a group of schools or office buildings, and works under the general supervision of a Senior Gardener, or Tractor Mower Operator.

SUPERVISION

General supervision is received from a Senior Tree Surgeon and the Tree Maintenance Supervisor. Work direction may be exercised over Maintenance Workers and Gardeners.

CLASS QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

- Care of trees and shrubbery in the Los Angeles area
- Tree trimming, pruning, shaping, surgery, and arboriculture
- Operation of tools and machinery used in tree moving and trimming
- Safety precautions and equipment necessary in tree surgery and tree trimming work
- Types of knots and rigging required in tree climbing and felling
- Types and treatments of various tree diseases and pests

Ability to:

Safely use hand and power tools and equipment, including a truck and aerial boom, in tree trimming and tree surgery work

Special Physical Requirement:

Agility to climb tall trees by means of ropes, safety belts, and other climbing apparatus

ENTRANCE QUALIFICATIONS

Education:

Graduation from high school or evidence of equivalent educational proficiency, preferably supplemented by courses in tree surgery, arboriculture, horticulture, or agriculture.

Experience:

Two years of experience in tree surgery that includes trimming, pruning, and felling. Experience must also include the trimming of tall trees using ropes, safety belts, and other climbing apparatus.

Special:

A valid California Driver License.
Use of an automobile.

This class description is not a complete statement of essential functions, responsibilities, or requirements. Requirements are representative of the minimum level of knowledge, skills, and abilities. Management retains the discretion to add or change typical duties of the position at any time.

Revised
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