



Tree Removal Near Existing Structures

What You Need to Know

Do I need a logging permit?

- Tree removal within one and a half tree lengths of an existing, permanent structure in the Rural areas of Pierce County does not require a logging (forest practices) permit from either the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) or from Pierce County. However, tree removal within the 1 ½ tree length zone must comply with Pierce County's Critical Areas and Site Development regulations, as noted below.

Your project may need Pierce County review and approval

- Pierce County may require Critical Area review of your project to make sure the tree removal doesn't negatively impact critical areas or their associated buffers. Critical areas include wetlands, streams, rivers, lakes, wildlife habitat, and steep slopes. [Pierce County Code, Title 18E, Critical Areas](#) provides the review requirements for tree removal in and adjacent to Critical Areas.
- Pierce County may require site development review for the proposed tree removal as well as for the removal of understory vegetation or stumps. [Pierce County Code, Title 17A, Site Development and Stormwater Drainage](#), provides the review requirements for these activities.

Who can I contact – How do I get more info?

- Call the Pierce County Biologist of the Day at 253-798-7005 **AND** the Pierce County Engineer of the Day at 253-798-3739; or
- E-mail the County your questions to pcpermits@co.pierce.wa.us; or
- Come into the Development Center, Monday – Friday (excluding Holidays), between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. We are located at 2401 South 35th Street, Tacoma, WA 98409.

The landowner is responsible for determining if any permits or reviews are required by Pierce County for the proposed tree removal, before starting work.