

Criteria for Tree Care for Wildlife Training Program

PURPOSE:

To provide information and training about how to minimize impacts to wildlife during tree care and landscape work, and how to manage and improve habitat.

OBJECTIVES:

The tree care provider can:

1. Understand laws protecting wildlife and recognize how those laws impact work.
2. Describe three types of habitats and their respective levels of value to wildlife.
3. Enhance wildlife habitat through tree care.
4. Identify the time of year when wildlife is most likely to nest.
5. Identify signs of nesting wildlife
6. Describe tree care practices that harm as well as reduce impact to wildlife
7. Estimate appropriate work buffers for species actively nesting in highly urbanized areas vs natural spaces.
8. Take personal safety precautions when working around wildlife.
9. Take appropriate first-responder actions when wildlife is injured or abandoned.
10. Determine circumstances when a wildlife biologist and/or wildlife rehabilitation center should be contacted.

LENGTH AND LEVEL OF TRAINING:

These criteria are recommended for a 4-6 hour-training session for a wildlife-trained arborist.

Resources available on the TreeCareForBirds.com website allow for a lower level of training.

TOPICS:

Laws and Regulations:

- Why birds and wildlife are protected
- Federal, State, Local, and environmental protections
- Possible consequences when laws are disregarded

Wildlife in Urban Forests

- Identifying nest types and locations
- Identifying old and new nest sites
- Understanding basic needs and defenses of wildlife

Minimizing impacts

- Tree care activities that may impact wildlife
- Identifying quality of habitats and time of year relevant to nesting.
- First-responder actions to protect injured and displaced wildlife.
- When to seek help and permits.
- Levels of training

Enhancing habitat

Natural and mitigation methods

Resources

Links to wildlife rehabilitation centers

How to find wildlife biologists

CA Department of US Fish and Wildlife

Introduction to CNDDDB and critical habitat

Tail-gate handout.

What to do if you find an immature