



# Our family tree

## Focused on Safety

Last year, Wright Tree Service (WTS) released the video “Safety: Our Highest Priority,” which identifies the three major risks that field employees are exposed to on a regular basis. These include falling trees and branches, falling while climbing or working on the ground, and direct or indirect contact with a power line or other energized conductor.

Kudos to the employees working on the Omaha Public Power District (OPPD) contract who worked hard as “actors” to make the video happen! The video is available in English and Spanish on the homepage of [www.wrighttree.com](http://www.wrighttree.com).

Check out the safety video credits to see a list of employees who were involved!

This past summer, employees working on the Xcel Energy contract in the Minneapolis, Minnesota, area tried their hand at acting, with great results! A second video titled “Drop Zone Safety Awareness: Pruning and Felling” will soon be available on the WTS website. This video focuses on proper procedures for pruning limbs and felling trees, two tasks that require constant awareness in the Drop Zone.

WTS plans to introduce at least two more safety videos, each concentrating on one of the major risks introduced in the first video.

- ◀ The video crew captures pruning from a bucket.
- ▼ The crew prepares to fell a tree for the second safety video.

▼ The group from safety video #1



▲ The group from safety video #2

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## NEW, ON THE MOVE & CERTIFIED

Congratulations to the following employees who were recently appointed, promoted and certified!

### NEW

- ▶ Stephanie Bretey, Payroll and Billing Specialist, Corporate Office
- ▶ Katie Brown, Payroll and Billing Specialist, Corporate Office
- ▶ Lindsay Cox, Payroll and Billing Specialist, Corporate Office
- ▶ Adrian De La Rosa, General Foreman (GF), Southwest Division
- ▶ Wendy Hansen, Staff Accountant
- ▶ Alyssa Miller, Payroll and Billing Specialist, Corporate Office
- ▶ Jeremy Priester, Payroll and Billing Specialist, Corporate Office

### ON THE MOVE

- ▶ Tarry Barkley, GF, Southeast Division
- ▶ Brian Crowe, GF, Lone Star Division
- ▶ Cecilio Dominguez, GF, Lone Star Division
- ▶ Joseph Easton, GF, Southwest Division
- ▶ Steven Gilliam, GF, Southeast Division
- ▶ Juan (John) Gonzales, GF, Southwest Division
- ▶ Mark Gunter, GF, Southeast Division
- ▶ Jennifer Heilman, Payroll and Billing Supervisor, Corporate Office
- ▶ Noah Killion, GF, Central Division
- ▶ James Lesley, GF, Southeast Division
- ▶ Lucas Loftin, Project Manager, Corporate Office
- ▶ Marvin Miller, GF, North Division
- ▶ Josh Morgan, GF, Southeast Division
- ▶ Tommy Pearson, GF, Central Division
- ▶ Travis Platt, Division Manager, Minnkota Division
- ▶ Jeff Rhodes, GF, Southwest Division
- ▶ Domingo Robledo, Safety Supervisor, Lone Star Division
- ▶ Diego Saucedo, GF, Division 45
- ▶ John Tracy, GF, Central Division
- ▶ Brad Shearer, Project Manager, Division 25
- ▶ Melissa Swanson, Payroll and Billing Supervisor, Corporate Office
- ▶ Jeffrey Wallace, GF, Southeast Division

### CERTIFIED

#### New International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborists®

- ▶ Donaldo Ortega, GF, Lone Star Division
- ▶ John Druce, Foreman, Central Division
- ▶ Lance Edwards, Foreman, Minnkota Division
- ▶ Alejandro Reyes, GF, Southwest Division
- ▶ Brian Smith, Trimmer, Minnkota Division
- ▶ Jeremy Shrum, GF, Southwest Division
- ▶ Francis Cherek, Foreman, Minnkota Division
- ▶ Aaron Goad, Foreman, Central Division



#### New ISA Certified Utility Specialist™

- ▶ Robert Steadman, Trimmer, Minnkota Division
- ▶ Matt Graves, Foreman, Minnkota Division



#### New Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA) Certified Tree Care Safety Professionals

- ▶ Jeff Gilmore, Safety Supervisor, North Division
- ▶ Erik Sveum, Safety Supervisor, Southeast Division and Division 45
- ▶ Domingo Robledo, Safety Supervisor, Lone Star Division

### OUR VISION

- ▶ Wright Tree Service will continue to be recognized by utilities as providers of the highest levels of quality, service, responsiveness, reliability and value.

### OUR MISSION

- ▶ To enable gas and electric utilities to provide reliable service to their customers by ensuring that transmission and distribution lines are clear of vegetation.
- ▶ To provide attractive value appreciation to our employee owners.
- ▶ To provide team members with an environment that enables them to achieve their personal and professional goals.
- ▶ To make a positive difference in the communities we serve.

### OUR VALUES

- ▶ **SAFETY** It is our highest concern.
- ▶ **INTEGRITY** We abide by the highest ethical standards.
- ▶ **QUALITY** Our service is mission critical to our clients.
- ▶ **TEAMWORK** It is how we operate.
- ▶ **INNOVATION** We deliver creative solutions for our clients.
- ▶ **FAMILY** It is our foundation; it is who we are.

## From the Treetop

By Steve Pietzyk, Vice President of Operations



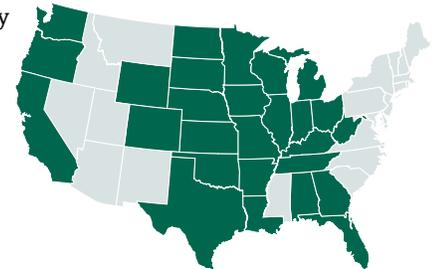
As the WTS division map proves, the company continues to expand. In the past two years, WTS has moved east and south, from Indiana, Ohio, West Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee to Louisiana and south Texas. Expansion isn't a quick process, however. Before we move into these regions, many things must be evaluated.

How does the new work fit in with our current contracts? How are we going to staff the operation? What equipment is available in the area?

Before bidding on a new contract, we carefully assess our company internally to make sure we have the resources to take on a new area and still focus on our highest priority: safety.

Hiring knowledgeable safety supervisors, project managers and GFs is crucial, but each and every employee plays a key role. Building a sense of camaraderie and strong relationships within each crew creates a safe and comfortable work environment for everyone to grow and thrive in.

Proper equipment also needs to be provided. WTS employees must be assigned the proper personal protective equipment (PPE) and be accountable for operating all equipment safely. Providing in-depth training is also very important. From new hire safety orientations and safety training days to weekly tailgate meetings and safety challenges, we pride ourselves on our employees working safely and taking safety practices home after work.



As WTS continues to expand our operations, we continue to focus on employee retention and giving all employees the opportunity to advance within our organization. In 1982, I started with WTS as a groundman. I was later promoted to GF, division supervisor, division manager and operations manager, and am now one of two vice presidents of operations. WTS counts on each and every employee to help the company succeed, just as each employee counts on the WTS team. Together we lead a safe and thriving workplace.

# Safety Education & Training

## TRAINING TOOLS SPOTLIGHT: Tips for the Industrial Athlete

By Ben Isbell, Safety Supervisor, Minnkota Division

Professional and competitive athletes' careers often last as long as their bodies can handle the sport. Whether it's football, triathlons or mixed martial arts, an athlete's body endures a lot of physical strain. They often follow strict stretching and body care regimens to stay in the best possible physical condition. WTS employees are no different than these athletes; the amount of physical activity applied on a daily basis while performing line clearance is easily comparable. As an "industrial athlete" you need to take care of yourself just as much as LeBron James or (as a Vikings fan, dare I say it) Aaron Rodgers.

Here are four simple steps to take in order to stay in top physical shape:

- 1) Stay hydrated, even in the winter months.** Water acts as a building material, a solvent, a carrier for nutrients and waste products, a thermo regulator, and as a lubricant and shock absorber. Those last two benefits are imperative for the spine, tendons, joints and muscles. Hydration is good for stress recovery and helps relieve inflammation.
- 2) Maintain vertical efficiency whenever possible.** As someone who started as a groundman, I realize that you can't always maintain an ergonomically friendly position when climbing or working from a bucket. Try to keep your back straight when lifting, carrying or pruning with a stick saw or ground saw, as it is essential in preventing back injuries and strains. Carry items as close to your body as you can. I'm sure you've heard the phrases "turn, don't twist" and "move, don't reach."

When pruning with a chain or hydraulic saw, rather than reach, move your body into a strong position before making the cut.

- 3) Stretch, stretch, stretch!** Before work, stretch the areas of your body that are going to be used that day. Also, stretch after particularly strenuous activities or at lunch. If you're an equipment operator, be sure to stretch after sitting for a long period of time. After work, make sure to stretch as well. Stretching increases flexibility, which benefits tendons, muscles and joints. Combined with a good diet and good hydration, stretching will help to prevent strains and sprains from occurring.

- 4) Sleep.** Getting good sleep at night (and in a dark room) helps the body recover thoroughly from the day's activities. Your body has a much more difficult time regaining energy and flexibility with little to no sleep. Also, recent studies show that limiting exposure to LED or LCD screens at least 30 minutes before you go to sleep can help you fall asleep easier and help you achieve better rest.

These four steps are just some of the things we can do to stay in peak physical condition. Seeing a physical therapist or chiropractor on an annual or otherwise regular basis can also be beneficial, as well as going to the doctor for an annual exam. Just like we inspect our climbing gear, we must have the most important machine on our jobsite regularly examined – the industrial athlete!

## CLIMBER'S CORNER:

### How to use a pile hitch to attach a throw line to a rope

Submitted by Nathan Carlisle, Safety Supervisor, Division 45

**Step 1:** Pass bight of throw line around the rope and under the standing end of the throw line.



**Step 2:** Drop the bight over the rope end.



**Step 3:** Tighten the hitch so the standing end of the throw line can handle the weight.



The pile hitch is used in place of the clove hitch or girth hitch when attaching a throw line onto a rope that will be installed in the tree, either for climbing or rigging. This hitch is quicker to tie and will not bind under great pressure, making it easy to untie.

Another advantage of the pile hitch is that the use of additional half hitches is eliminated. Bight of cordage is defined as "the loop or bent part of a rope, as distinguished from the ends." The standing end is the part that is inactive in tying the knot, which is the opposite of the working end.

#### SUBMIT A TIP!

If you would like to submit a tip to the Climber's Corner, please email [news@wrighttree.com](mailto:news@wrighttree.com).

## GENERAL FOREMAN SCHOOL

GF School was held at the corporate office in West Des Moines, Iowa, in May and October this year. Congratulations to all participants!



### MAY PARTICIPANTS

(Left to right) Back: Adrian Oliver (Central), Danny Williams (Central), Joe Taylor (Minnkota), Mike Fisher (25), Michael Blain (Southwest) and Dave Horn (Minnkota). Front: David Trevino (Southwest), Paul Mitchell (Safety Supervisor, Central), Dale Pewitt (North), Andy Brown (Southeast), Shawn Woody (Pacific), David Aguilar (Southwest), Pedro Hernandez (45), Rafael Garcia (Southwest) and Erik Sveum (Safety Supervisor, Southeast).



### OCTOBER PARTICIPANTS

(Left to right) Back: Justin Lawhorn (25), Nathan Carlisle (Safety Supervisor, 45), Matt Lair (Asset Project Manager, Corporate Office), Lance Even (Central), Scott Dundee (North). Middle: Roy Arredondo (Southwest), Brandon Gray (Mountain States), Cesar Garcia (45), Jason Smock (North), Taylor Osborne (45). Front: Chad Chaney (25), Chad Sutherland (Arbor and Land Clearing Operations Manager, Wright Outdoor Solutions), Chris Wilson (Southeast), John Gonzales (Southwest), Ryan Manson (Southeast).

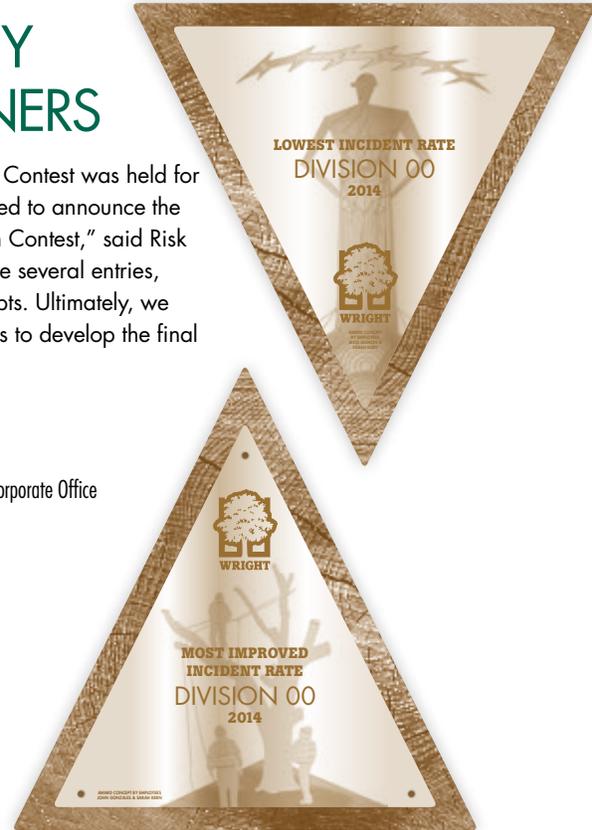
## SAFETY TROPHY DESIGN WINNERS

This spring, a Safety Trophy Design Contest was held for all WTS employees. "We are pleased to announce the winners of the Safety Trophy Design Contest," said Risk Manager Rocky Palmer. "There were several entries, all with creative designs and concepts. Ultimately, we incorporated three employees' ideas to develop the final trophy designs."

### THE WINNERS INCLUDE:

- ▶ **John Gonzales**, GF, Southwest Division
- ▶ **Sarah Kern**, Payroll and Billing Specialist, Corporate Office
- ▶ **Jesse Leamon**, former Trimmer, Division 45

A new plaque showing all the division winners throughout history will also be hung at the corporate office in December.



## CHALLENGE COINS

Through the Challenge Coin program, WTS CEO, president, vice presidents of operations and safety and risk managers recognize employees with special coins when they go above and beyond in exhibiting our company's values. Those deserving of the recognition since May include:

### SAFETY COINS

- ▶ Foremen **Erik Herberg** and **Jess Paulsen**, and Trimmers **John Fiek** and **Adam Lobitz**, Minnkota Division, for helping an elderly man who fell, until emergency services arrived.
- ▶ Foreman **Andy Burns** and Trimmer **Raul Serrano**, Mountain States Division, for reporting a stolen vehicle and helping a police officer put out a fire that started in his car.
- ▶ System Integration/Project Manager **Jeff Kirby**, Corporate Office, for quickly using a fire extinguisher to put out a small fire in the IT department.



**SUBMIT A SAFETY SUGGESTION!** Safety is our number one priority. If you have a suggestion, compliment, concern or general comment, please submit it at [www.wrighttree.com](http://www.wrighttree.com). You can also use your smartphone to open the QR code on the left. The code will direct you to the safety suggestion form, allowing you to submit your suggestion easily from your mobile device.

# News from the Branches



## ◀ CORPORATE OFFICE

The original 1940s WTS number 10 truck was the main feature of a fall display at the Hy-Vee grocery store in Waukee, Iowa.

## CORPORATE OFFICE Bacon for Trees



WTS donated a unique package to the TREE Fund live auction at the ISA International Conference and Tradeshow. The package included four tickets to the 2015 Blue Ribbon Bacon Festival (also known as “Baconfest”) in Des Moines; a gift certificate for private transportation; a two-room, two-night stay at the Embassy Suites downtown; a restaurant gift card; and other Iowa-themed items from local store Raygun. It was a hot item!

“I don’t know how you do it! You do a great job!”

**AEP Public Service Company of Oklahoma (PSO) complimenting the payroll and billing department**

## CENTRAL DIVISION

“Wright Tree Service has been working in our city with Ameren, and Brian Harbison worked closely with the public works personnel on pruning the trees. Mr. Harbison offered valuable suggestions, and his work was excellent!”

**A Hillsboro city administrator complimenting Foreman Brian Harbison**

“I am absolutely amazed by the job the crew did, and my yard looks better than before! The clean-up job was unbelievable, and the guys were so polite. Everyone did a great job!”

**An OPPD customer impressed by Foreman Hector Armendariz, Trimmer Gabriel Lopez, and Groundman Jorge Guerrero (GF Bill McDowall)**

On June 30, severe weather made its way through western Missouri, bringing tornadoes, heavy flooding and high winds. About 1,500 residents of Liberty, Missouri, were without power until crews arrived to help clear downed trees and debris.

In a KCTV5 Kansas City news report, Groundman Rick Snow stated, “It’s nice helping out the city and getting the power back. We feel like we’re doing a good thing.” ▼



## CORPORATE OFFICE

### In the News

President and COO Will Nutter wrote a Utility Arborist Association (UAA) “Safety Committee Update” that was published in the June/July issue of the *Utility Arborist Newslines*. Will, who serves as chair of the UAA committee, explained the progress it has made in the past two years and shared the objectives and tasks moving forward.

Will also authored an article in the September/October issue of the *Utility Arborist Newslines*. His article, “Oklahoma Safety Summit,” described the success of the summit, takeaways and the results of a survey completed by participants.



▲ Finally, congratulations to Will on receiving the UAA President’s Award at the ISA Annual International Conference and Tradeshow in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on August 5. The President’s Award was given to Will for his contributions to UAA, including his overall commitment to safety, chairing the Safety Committee, and his involvement with Safety Summits.

## CENTRAL DIVISION

### Storm Work

Crews volunteered to help clean up after a tornado hit Lake Panorama, Iowa, in May. Volunteers included Foremen Nathan Pexa, Matt Brown and Mike Parker. The efforts were led by GF Bill McDowall and then-GF Lucas Loftin.



◀ Foreman Mike Parker

Foremen Nathan Pexa and Matt Brown ▶



## CENTRAL DIVISION

### Safety First!

On March 25, Safety Supervisor Paul Mitchell conducted a chainsaw safety class for the Westar Energy apprentice linemen program in Topeka, Kansas. Paul’s presentation included saw safety, operating knowledge and maintenance.

DIVISION 25

# In the News

On June 13, a West Virginia news website, [williamsondailynews.com](http://williamsondailynews.com), stated that “Appalachian Power Company has brought in crews from outside the state to help with clearing trees and repairing downed power lines. Thousands of residents in southern West Virginia, as well as eastern Kentucky, were without electricity earlier this week after severe thunderstorms hit the region.” The picture to the right shows WTS crews planning the storm work in East Williamson, West Virginia.



MOUNTAIN STATES DIVISION

# Lending a Hand

On July 21, Job Planner Nathan Jones was working along a transmission line near Conifer, Colorado, when a woman riding her bike down a trail passed him. As Nathan continued down the path, he came across the woman sitting on the ground holding her wrist and nursing a scraped leg. She was disoriented and appeared to have fallen off of her bike.

Nathan talked to her, calmed her down, and helped her to her feet. He then helped her walk and guided her bike down the path back to her car, which was about two miles away. Nathan offered to help her to seek medical care, but the woman insisted on being fine to drive on her own.

## NORTH DIVISION

“The crew cleaned up very well, and you couldn’t even tell they were here. We really appreciate it!”

An Ameren customer in Chillicothe, Illinois, crediting Foremen Edwin Koziel and Nathan Johnson, and Trimmers Terry Richards, Tim Telford and Jeremy Hanlin (GF Scott Dundee)

“Thank you for the quick response and the delivery of wood chips for our community garden. Kindness and prompt response to this situation is very much appreciated by all of us.”

A community garden leader in Maryland Heights, Missouri, thanking Foreman Joel Rivera and Groundman Juan Maldonado (GF Cesar Bustos)

“The crew did a marvelous job with work near my home. The yard was cleaned up well, and everything was spotless.”

An Ameren customer complimenting Foremen Jared Teegarden and Brandon Irons, and Trimmers Ryan Buley and William Milligan (GF Dale Stout)

“I’d like to acknowledge Steven Hale on a job well done!”

An Ameren customer complimenting Foreman Steven Hale

“The crew did an excellent job and was courteous, friendly and always smiling. They were very accommodating in moving their trucks on a narrow road and did a superior job, despite the heat.”

An Ameren customer commending Foreman Garry Rodgers and Trimmer Ian Koenig (GF Chris Lorenz)

“They made a great impression!”

An Ameren customer thanking Foremen Joel Rivera and Ken Mange, and Trimmer Juan Maldonado (GF Cesar Bustos)

“Everyone did wonderful work! They explained the work they were going to perform, and they were very careful about working around my plants. I can’t say enough good things about them!”

An Ameren customer in Peoria, Illinois, thanking Trimmer Andrew Siemsen (Acting GF Aaron Hallead)

“I was very happy with the crews who came through Peoria Heights, Illinois. They were all informative and very professional. We were very happy with the finished product.”

An Ameren customer complimenting several crews

## DIVISION 25

“The crew was able to get rid of all the branches from my yard quickly. That says a lot about the quality of their company and the character of employees.”

A Dayton Power & Light customer thanking Foreman Tab Huffman, Trimmers Brad Miller and Stephen Peck, and Groundman Joe Castle (GF Curt Hirtzinger)

“Larry and Todd pruned our tree away from the power lines and did a fabulous job shaping it. It looks better than ever. They put in extra effort, trimmed out some of the dead branches I couldn’t reach, and cleaned up. I could not have asked for a nicer crew. Thank you!”

An AEP customer impressed by Foreman Larry Drum and Trimmer Joseph (Todd) Cunningham (GF Mark Pitt and Acting GF Kevin Gilliam)

“I met with Ron, and he helped clean up my yard. Wright Tree Service is an excellent company to work with, and we are very happy with the work they did on our properties. I’m so glad I met the crew including Ron; they are very professional. Thanks for doing a fantastic job!”

A Duke Energy customer thanking GF Ron Gibson, Groundman Jesse Schwartz, and Foremen Troy Sanders, Larry Eggleston Jr., Steve Eggleston and William Ford

“My neighbor and I are extremely pleased with the pruning that was done today. Thank you for doing a wonderful job – you were courteous and friendly. It was a pleasure to have met the crew!”

A FirstEnergy customer complimenting Foreman Joe Dean and Groundman Kurt Hershberger (GF Justin Lawhorn)

## MOUNTAIN STATES DIVISION

On August 29, Phillip Kelly from North American Training Solutions presented a one-day training course on tree hazard mitigation and assessment to a group of employees in Denver, Colorado. The class also was given to employees in the Lone Star Division and Division 45. ▼



## PACIFIC DIVISION

“On behalf of Clark Public Utilities, I want to extend our appreciation to Wright Tree Service for allowing your operator Dennis Erspamer to help with the La Center Clean Up event on May 3. Our water utility provides safe, clean drinking water to citizens of La Center, Washington, and the community has always invited our employees to volunteer with this annual cleanup event.”

A letter from Clark Public Utilities Communication Services Manager complimenting Foreman Dennis Erspamer

## WRIGHT TREE SERVICE OF THE WEST

“Thank you, thank you, thank you, Jeramie, for doing such a good job pruning the trees!”

A PG&E customer thanking GF Jeramie Socoy

## MOUNTAIN STATES DIVISION

# Good Instincts

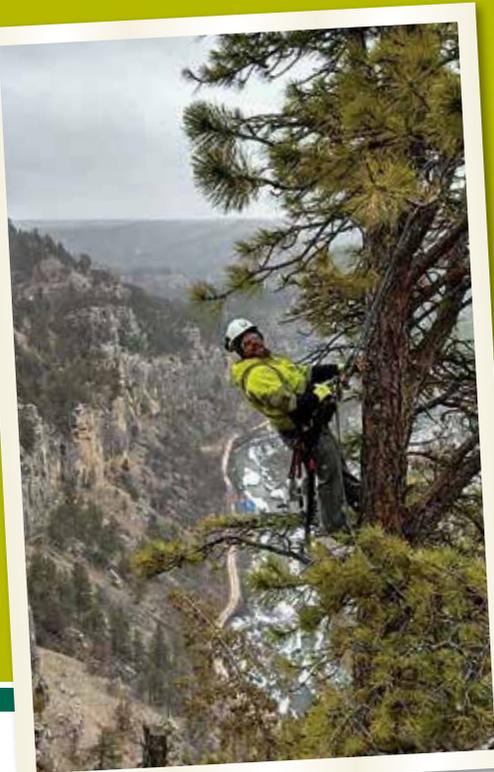
During a bi-weekly maintenance inspection of Xcel Energy’s substations, Foreman Andy Burns and Trimmer Raul Serrano noticed a small vehicle in the weeds behind a vacant house. They both walked toward the vehicle, which wasn’t there at the time of their most recent inspection. Andy contacted the police department to report a possible stolen vehicle, but they didn’t go too close.

After the police arrived and began to inspect the vehicle, Andy and Raul noticed heavy smoke coming from one of the officer’s vehicles. Andy, Raul, Foreman Paul Dill and Groundman Preston Scott (who had just arrived) notified the officers and assisted them in using a fire extinguisher to put out the flames.

## ◀ MOUNTAIN STATES DIVISION

# On the Edge

Foreman Nathan Erickson pruned a pine tree in late spring on the edge of Dark Canyon in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Photo credit goes to Trimmer Chad Schwenn.



## ◀◀ MOUNTAIN STATES DIVISION

# Crane Construction

Foremen Jose Ponce, Armando Gracia, Joe Valdez and Justin Siruta, and Trimmers Jesus Flores and Gil Meza Rodriguez did some interesting work for an Xcel Energy construction project in August. They used bucket trucks to secure cables from a crane to a tree, cut sections off of the trees and lowered them safely to the ground with the crane.



DIVISION 45

## Congratulations!

Safety Supervisor Nathan Carlisle completed a Dale Carnegie course in Indiana and earned praise from the instructor! The course included training that focused on effective communication, leadership and organizational skills.

## SOUTHEAST DIVISION

"You guys are doing excellent work and are very courteous. Thank you."

**A Clay Electric customer complimenting Foremen Robert Jackson Jr. and William Wulf, and Trimmers Terry Savage Jr., Adam Lawson, John Zwart and Kenneth Suggs (GF Jeffery Wallace)**

"When I was going through Georgia in April, I passed a hotel where about 10 of your trucks were parked. I was impressed by the cleanliness and maintenance of your vehicles. Great management!"

**A woman complimenting crews and management in Coker Creek, Tennessee**

"Some of your workers helped me with directions and were very friendly!"

**A woman commending Foreman Dennis Rushing and Groundman Jesse Jones (GF Brian Walker)**

"Thank you for your professional approach to your work. One of our customers was very complimentary of the Wright Tree crew. We salute your efforts."

**EPB complimenting a crew led by Foreman Nate Postelle (GF Krechun Jackson)**

DIVISION 45 ▶

"Thank you for sponsoring us last season!

Also, a special thank you to Foreman Earl

Day for helping. The team had a lot of fun. Thanks again for helping make this a great year for the team."

**The Dawson Springs Bass Fishing Team thanking WTS for sponsoring their jerseys for a tournament**



DIVISION 45

## Hail Storm



*An October hail storm in Lancaster, Kentucky, that crews worked in!*

## DIVISION 45

"We are amazed. The crew was respectful, hardworking and efficient, and it was a pleasure to have them on our property. It was a very hot day, and those men worked like it was spring. You struck gold with these guys!"

**A customer complimenting Foremen Alfredo Cordova and Mauricio Gutierrez Alvarada (Project Manager Vinnie Pavcovich)**

"The professionalism and care that the crew demonstrated to preserve the landscaping was above and beyond. They had great attention to detail and worked hard."

**An LG&E KU customer complimenting Foreman Elmer Herrera and Trimmers Rafael Peña, Marcos Juarez and Micah Stateman**

"Wright Tree Service removed three trees from our property, and I was very impressed with the employees and professional work done."

**A Kentucky Utilities Company customer**

"A big thank you for the great job that was done pruning the trees!"

**A Bluegrass Energy customer praising Foreman Ed Abbott and Groundman Brandon Moore (GF Joey Williams)**

"The crews were very efficient, and they cleaned up the mess. I believe in rewarding hard work!"

**An LG&E-KU customer commending Foreman Mauricio Gutierrez**

"I'm incredibly pleased with the work of your crew. You did a very professional job and cleaned up everything."

**A Dayton Power & Light customer complimenting Foremen Jason Juskae and Tim Vancil, and Trimmers Shawn Holcomb and Jeff Bryant (GF Curt Hirtzinger)**

"They were an excellent group to work with, and I'm very pleased with the work completed."

**An LG&E KU customer praising Foreman Marcelo Ventura and Trimmer Jonathan Rodriguez (GF Ever Acosta)**

"I'm more than pleased with how everything turned out. Everyone was extremely professional!"

**An LG&E KU customer called complimenting Foreman Elmer Herrera (GF Cesar Garcia)**

SOUTHEAST DIVISION

## Risky Business

Trimmers Januel Ruiz and Edgar Trejo Hernandez canoed through an alligator- and water moccasin-infested river to access a location needing manual tree work in Fort McCoy, Florida, in August.



DIVISION 45

facebook



**Karen Alford** posted on Lansing Board of Water & Light's timeline

"Hi, I wanted to give a great big thanks to Wright Tree Service for their help in clearing my yard of the tops of 9 of my trees! They saved me so much work. They were also very courteous and efficient. Nice crew. Thanks Guys, that storm was so horrible! I appreciate your helping with the cleanup. Good luck and God Bless. Stay Safe."

View Post

## SOUTHWEST DIVISION

“The crew was done with the work very quickly, was an expert in their work and was practicing safe procedures. Their skill and knowledge was evident and remarkable. We appreciate the attention and good work of everyone.”

**An Austin Energy customer commending Foreman Tirso Sanchez and Trimmers Erasmo Garcia Sanchez and Pedro Diaz (GF Eloy Zapata)**

“Rick was so kind to have helped me out and did a great job!”

**A customer complimenting Foreman Rick Richardson (GF Jason Brown)**

## LONE STAR DIVISION

“Your crews are awesome! They were so friendly and professional, and they made quick time removing the tree branches so our power could be restored. Everyone was GREAT!”

**An Oncor customer praising Foremen Robert Ellis and Jered Ramirez, Trimmers Frank Austin and Justin Jackson, and Groundman Bobby Tubbs (Acting GF Victor Larson)**

“Crews did an excellent job and treated my property with respect. I appreciated the way the trees were pruned. Great job!”

**An Oncor customer complimenting Foremen Juan Hercules and Jesus Orellana, Trimmers Alonso Salmeron and Carlos Salmeron, and Groundmen Jose Portillo and Nazario Briggs**

“Thank you so much for being so helpful in removing tree limbs near power lines. Those men worked hard! That was a professional show! You would have never known they were on our property because they cleaned up nicely – there wasn’t a loose leaf in sight!”

**An Oncor customer praising Foreman Jesus Orellana, Trimmers Carlos Salmeron and Juan Mercado, and Groundman Jose Portillo (GF Donaldo Ortega)**

“Thanks for the excellent service pruning the trees. They look very nice, and everything is cleaned up. The crew even raked the yard. Wright Tree Service is awesome!”

**An Oncor customer thanking Foreman Jose Alvarez and Trimmer Raul Rivas (GF Donaldo Ortega)**

## MINNKOTA DIVISION

“I was very happy with the crew. They did a beautiful job. They worked well with me, and you have very satisfied people in our neighborhood!”

**An Xcel Energy customer complimenting Foremen Art Gilliland and Erik Terwey and Trimmers Chris LeClaire, Joe Wappell and Jacob Volkman (GF Ira Signalness)**

“The crew did a great job. Thank you for the safe removal of the trees!”

**A customer complimenting Foreman Keith Christianson and Trimmer Joey Sanwald (GF Wayne Fancher)**

“The kids love watching Wright Tree Service work in the yard. They cheered for the crew and snapped a picture. They were very nice!”

**A customer in White Bear Lake, Minnesota, complimenting Foremen Dan Mellgren, Peter Fredrickson, Dave Mahlberg, Doug Seaman and Roy Manson, and Trimmers Scott Wilson, Emmett Trudeau, Jim Staubs and Paul Hillebrandt (GF Jim Engelke)**

## SOUTHWEST DIVISION

### An Incident-Free Year

Congratulations to GF Roy Arredondo and his crews listed below on an incident-free year!

#### FOREMEN:

- ▶ Horacio Rubio
- ▶ Hermenegildo Palacios
- ▶ Douglas Umana
- ▶ Jose Lazo
- ▶ Luis Cerna
- ▶ Rogelio Cantu
- ▶ Ever Munoz Quintanilla
- ▶ Jose Esperanza
- ▶ Armando Camacho

#### TRIMMERS:

- ▶ Julio Perez
- ▶ Imer Canton
- ▶ Walter Quintanilla
- ▶ Rigoberto Rivas
- ▶ Jimmy Gonzalez
- ▶ Gabriel Herrera
- ▶ Andres Mercado Santa
- ▶ Jose Flores
- ▶ Noe Lopez

## SOUTHWEST DIVISION

### In the News

San Angelo, Texas, was hit by severe storms on June 12. In a *Standard-Times* photo gallery, a WTS employee was featured helping repair storm damage.

## DIVISION 45 AND SOUTHWEST DIVISION

### Climbing Competition

On June 14, Safety Supervisor Erik Sveum (Division 45 and Southwest Division) and Southwest Division Foreman Edgar Garcia competed in the ISA Midwestern Chapter Tree Climbing Competition at the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis. Their scores are yet to be released, but they enjoyed meeting new people and learning new techniques!



Edgar and Erik



MINNKOTA DIVISION

# Chainsaw Safety

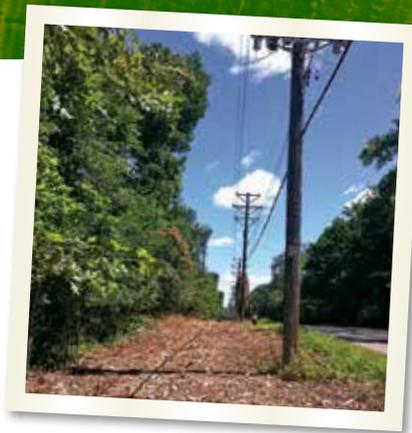
On April 29, Safety Supervisor Ben Isbell conducted a chainsaw safety class for Des Moines Water Works in Iowa. After his presentation, he led the group through the five-step felling plan, guiding a student to fell a large ash tree using an open-faced notch. This was Ben's second year presenting. ▼



"I am extremely pleased with your employees who removed and pruned the trees along the power lines in the back of my lot in July. Jeff Harris was easy to talk to, and Lance Edwards and Larry Wilson, who removed and pruned all the trees, were nice gentlemen with pleasant personalities. Lance and Larry worked hard, and when they left at night, they still had smiles on their faces. They did a beautiful job of pruning and cleaning up afterwards."

**An Xcel Energy customer complimenting GF Jeff Harris, Foreman Lance Edwards and Trimmer Larry Wilson**

*Domingo Robledo in the "Ask an Arborist" booth at the ISA Arbor Fair in Milwaukee ▼*



▲ "The crews did fantastic work pruning and mowing this property. The work is very impressive!"

**CN Utility Consulting Lead Consulting Utility Forester Kyle Palmer complimenting Foreman Nick Buchholz and Journeyman David Egan**

"We were so impressed with their professionalism and concern for safety, and the care they showed for our gardens."

**An Xcel Energy customer complimenting Foremen John Holmes and Dan Pete, and Trimmers Kyle Kutscher, Justin Karloske, Michael Rivard, Inocente Martinez Ramirez and Will Ewing**

# Steady Support

On April 30, when Foremen Erik Herberg and Jess Paulson were heading back to their trucks, they noticed an elderly man lying on the ground by his house. The man had fallen while getting his mail. Erik and Jess called 911 while keeping the man comfortable and talking to him, until emergency services arrived.



# Ask an Arborist!

Employees from WTS, CN Utility Consulting (CNUC), Terra Spectrum Technologies, and Wright Outdoor Solutions attended the ISA Annual Conference and Trade Show in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in August, where four WTS employees and one CNUC employee volunteered in the "Ask an Arborist" booth. They shared their expert knowledge of the industry and answered questions that conference attendees and the general public had. WTS booth participants included Safety Supervisors Domingo Robledo, Randy Rempe and Paul Mitchell and Safety Manager Jim Lorrigan.



MINNKOTA DIVISION

# In Memory

Wright Tree Service sends our condolences to the family of the late Herb Coy, who passed away on September 28. Herb was a GF in the Minnkota Division and worked for WTS for more than 35 years. He was also an avid bowler, an Oakland Raiders fan, and a race car enthusiast. Herb loved life, his sports teams, his job and his weekends camping with friends, but most of all he loved his family. "Herb was a whole-hearted friend, general foreman, and overall great person. He was very competitive and loved his job at Wright Tree Service. Because of Herb's dedication, he made me a better general foreman as well. He will be greatly missed by all," said Minnkota Division GF Wayne Fancher.

*To honor Herb, Project Manager Boyd Rasmussen and several GFs Herb worked with set up a tribute across from the funeral home. The flags represent two things Herb enjoyed: NASCAR and the Oakland Raiders. ▼*

