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New requirements for tree care licensing and certification

Tree work can be expensive and potentially dangerous to perform. It is essential that people who work with trees are knowledgeable about the needs of trees and are trained and equipped to provide proper care.

Hiring an arborist (an arborist is a professional individual who is trained in the art and science of planting, caring for, and maintaining individual trees) is a decision that should not be taken lightly. Proper tree care is an investment that can lead to substantial returns. Well cared for trees are attractive and can add considerable value to a property.

Poorly maintained trees can be a significant liability for a property owner. Tree health affects all members of a community. Many people walk, jog, bike, and drive under hundreds of Brighton trees every day. Many trees on public and private property grow over adjacent structures and right-of-ways. It is critical that trees are properly maintained to reduce the risk of tree failure that could potentially damage property or harm people.

As of January 1, 2013, the City of Brighton will be requiring all persons and businesses engaged in tree work of any kind to be licensed, insured, and certified. The license requirement is for tree work for hire, including barter or trade services.

Prior to obtaining a Brighton tree care license, a written test and a field test must be taken from one of four municipalities that administer reciprocal testing for the Denver metro-area (Aurora, Wheat Ridge, Lakewood, and Denver.) As with any professional service (construction, plumbing, electrical work), companies or individuals engaged in the tree care profession must demonstrate they are competent enough to provide those services.

Companies engaged in performing tree work within Brighton city limits without a tree care license will be in violation of Brighton's municipal code (sec. 5-68-10 and sec. 5-68-20) and will be subject to enforcement. Tree companies or individuals who pass the requirements to obtain a Brighton Tree License will be posted on Brighton's website for citizens to use as a reference when selecting tree companies.

For more information, please contact the City of Brighton Forester Kyle Sylvester at 303-655-2089 or ksylvester@brightonco.gov or visit www.brightonco.gov for more information on tree care licensing.

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