Tree Care

Arborists win battle with OSHA regulation

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has conceded to the National Arborist Association on a proposed “Electrical Safety-Related Work Practices” rule, according to the N.A.A.

The proposed regulation would have made it impossible for any person to enter a tree which was closer than 10 feet to an energized conductor unless that person was a Qualified Line Clearance Tree Trimmer doing work “directly associated” with the transmission and distribution of electricity.

“All basically, what we did was submit written testimony,” says N.A.A. executive vice-president Robert Felix. “We made them recognize the fact that a qualified tree worker can work around electrical conductors. Their regulation had included utility tree workers only.”

Also, the proposal would have made it possible for different members of a crew to be regulated by different OSHA rules on the same day, or whole crews being subject to one OSHA rule on one job and a different OSHA rule on another.

Under cross-examination by attorney Steven R. Semler, OSHA clarified the points of contention, conceding on the record to each of the concerns that had been presented in the NAA’s testimony.

Testimony came from NAA members Gerald Duke, Walter Money and Erik Haupt.

Conferences

Expo seminars are comprehensive

The third annual Landscape Exposition, to be held Oct. 22-24 at the Nashville (Tenn.) Convention Center offers attendees a comprehensive seminar program.

The Landscape Exposition seminars, taught by recognized industry authorities and educators, deal with topics from regulatory issues to management strategies to the most recent technical developments. Titles include:

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- continued on page 14