



New Rating for Tree Care and Pruning Services

What changed?

Tree care and pruning services no longer share a classification or rate with land clearing and excavation industries. It is now rated on its own. This change was necessary because the hazards and losses for the tree care industry are much greater than the other businesses reporting in the land clearing and excavation classification 0101. See chart at right.

How will this affect the rates for tree services?

Tree care and pruning businesses would need to pay about \$8.80 an hour in premiums to fully cover their losses. Under this new risk class, L&I plans to limit rate increases to incremental amounts for several years. During this time, L&I will work with businesses to help them reduce workers' compensation losses and control rates that otherwise would increase significantly.

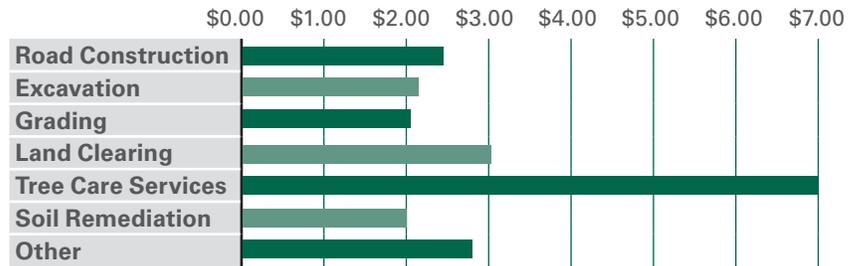
What can you do to lower the cost of your workers' compensation rates?

Employers who actively manage workplace safety and injury claims by taking the following actions can lower their premiums.

Safety

- Develop a safety plan to prevent accidents and injuries from occurring:
 - Enforce the use of hard hats, eye protection, hearing protection, safety boots, and snug fitting clothes at work.
 - Read the Tree Care Safety fact sheet.
 - Go to www.Lni.wa.gov/Safety to find tree care industry safety information.

Claim cost per hour comparison for classification 0101



Before tree services were rated on their own, costs for tree care and pruning services were more than two times higher than that of the other industries reporting in classification 0101.

- Require all tree care technicians to take a formal safety training program and refresher courses at least once every three years.
- Request a free safety consultation. Go to www.SafetyConsultants.Lni.wa.gov or call 1-800-423-7233.

Loss Control

- Stay engaged with injured workers to facilitate return to work.
- Learn about the Stay at Work Program to support injured workers during recovery at www.StayAtWork.Lni.wa.gov.
- Report safety violations by others. Losses affect everyone's rates.
- Request a loss control consultation at www.SafetyConsultants.Lni.wa.gov or call 1-800-423-7233.

Prevent Fraud

- Report employers who underreport hours or report in the wrong classification. Misreporting affects everyone's rates.
- Report workers who file fraudulent claims at www.Fraud.Lni.wa.gov or call 1-888-811-5974.