



The Town of Ocean Ridge Police Department

— Emergency 911 — Business (561) 732-8331 — Fax (561) 732-8676 —

6450 N. Ocean Blvd.
Ocean Ridge, FL 33435-5297

Hal C. Hutchins
Chief of Police

August 1, 2016

Mr. Sample Resident
123 Main Street
Ocean Ridge, FL 33435

Dear _____,

The Town has conducted a three month project identifying and attempting to mitigate trees that have grown into, or are a hazard to, the above ground utility lines within the Town. As a part of this project, we have been in contact with AT&T, Comcast, and Florida Power and Light. Though we have worked diligently with these utility providers, we have received minimal assistance in having the obstructed and affected lines cleared on your behalf.

As most of you are aware, the severe storms that caused tremendous damage to our Town in past years prompted action by the Town Commission to protect our utility lines and poles from damage. The attached Ordinance addresses required trimming of vegetation and trees that contact or otherwise obstruct or interfere with power or other utility service lines.

As we have attempted, without success, to have the utility companies correct these violations on your behalf; we are now notifying property owners of the responsibility to trim and maintain vegetation or trees that have been identified as threats. Therefore, please take the appropriate steps to have the vegetation or trees emanating from your property cut back, trimmed, or removed (removal may require a permit) so they are no longer in contact with, or a threat to, utility lines. This threat mitigation should be maintained throughout the year, and particularly during the course of hurricane season from June 1st through November 30th.

We respectfully request that threat abatement measures be taken within 14 days.

We are relying on you to take care of this important matter, as all residents of the Town share the power and utility systems and we depend on it for our health, safety, and well-being.

Sincerely,

Hal C. Hutchins, Jr.
Chief of Police

Town of Ocean Ridge Code of Ordinances (excerpt)

DIVISION 3. - TREE PERMITS

Sec. 66-151. - Tree permits.

(b) Tree removal, replacement, conditions and exemptions.

(7) Tree trimming and maintenance. Notwithstanding any other provisions contained in [chapter 66](#), article IV, all trees shall be trimmed and maintained so as not to come in contact or otherwise obstruct or interfere with power or other utility lines or facilities. Property owners shall be responsible for complying with this subsection with respect to all trees located on their property, on privately granted utility easements for which their property exists as the servient estate and on any adjacent rights of way upon which the property owner has sought permission or a license from the town to plant or maintain landscaping including trees....

The Ordinance in its entirety is available online at www.oceanridgeflorida.com or https://www.municode.com/library/fl/ocean_ridge/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodid=PTIICOOR