



**If a tree falls on a power line,
will anyone hear about it?**

We will.

During an ice storm, a hurricane the strength of Isabel, or just an afternoon thunderstorm, one of the most challenging situations we face is the threat of trees or limbs falling on a power line. A downed line is dangerous and can disrupt power to thousands of customers. The great 2003 Northeast blackout, caused by transmission lines hitting trees, taught our industry that we must be even more diligent about keeping our rights-of-way clear. And it's a full-time job. Prior to any trimming or cutting efforts, our forestry team, including certified arborists, carefully assesses the area to determine the best course of action. In our current work along the W&OD trail, we meet regularly with adjacent landowners, local officials and park personnel to discuss our procedures and alternatives – and to listen. There, and in other parts of the state where trees threaten our lines, we're replacing them with low-growing native species that will provide excellent habitats for local wildlife. We've planted more than 500 along the trail so far and more are coming. As a power company, our first responsibilities must be to your safety and to reliable power for our customers. With the Northeast blackout as a painful reminder, we want to make sure this never happens in Virginia. For more information on our tree trimming and other environmental policies, please visit our Web site at www.dom.com.

