**Improper Techniques**

- Leaving stubs.
- Using wound paint encourages decay.
- Cutting flush to the trunk.

**Proper Three-Cut Pruning Method**

1. **CUT ①** Undercut a third of the way through the branch 12”-18” from the trunk.
2. **CUT ②** Cut the branch off, from the top, 2”-3” above the undercut.
3. **CUT ③** Remove the remaining stub by cutting outside the branch collar.

**Avoid Topping**

- Topping occurs when the canopy is removed from a tree.
- Topping is unsightly and weakens the tree.
- Topping injures the tree and causes decay.
- Topping looks unnatural and weakens the branches.

*A properly pruned tree should not look pruned.*