

Before the Storm:

Develop a relationship with a Certified Arborist or tree care professional.

Conduct a pre-storm assessment.

Identify trouble spots before a storm hits. Some potential hazards to look for on your property:

- Cracks in tree trunks or major limbs
- Hollow, aged, and decayed trees
- One-sided or significantly leaning trees
- Branches leaning more than 45 degrees over the roof
- Anything in close proximity to utility lines
- Shelf-like fungus or mushrooms
- Trees with dangerous leans

Note: Several of these features may suggest that the tree may be suffering from a condition called Heart Rot or

possibly buckling under its own weight, causing danger, especially when the ground is saturated with water and the canopy is getting pelted by high winds.

Take measures to prevent damage.

After assessing possible hazards to your property, your Arborist may need to take any number of measures to limit potential damage.

- Remove dead, diseased, or damaged limbs.
- Have leaning trees inspected and consider removing those with large cavities.
- Prune branches too close to your house and over the street.
- Check your gutters and remove debris to prevent water damage.
- Call a professional to assess and potentially remove any limbs within close proximity to utility lines; DO NOT attempt to do this yourself.

During the storm:

Your property is not more important than your life and the lives of your loved ones. Prepare in advance, follow guidelines for evacuations, and don't hesitate to get assistance.

After the Storm:

It's important to protect yourself as well as your property.

- Be on the alert. Stay away from utility lines and keep an eye out for dangers both up in hanging branches and down on damaged trunks.
- Broken limbs may still be lodged in trees, but can easily and unexpectedly fall. Tree professionals call these "widow-makers."
- Look for trees leaning against or touching downed phone lines or power lines—a tree in contact with a power line and the ground at the base of the tree can be energized and dangerous . . .

- If branches are too close or touching utility lines, report immediately to your local utility company. NEVER attempt to move downed utility lines.
- When in doubt, call your Arborist.

Have your arborist evaluate tree damage.

- Other than storm damage, is the tree basically healthy?
- Are major limbs and/or the leader branch still remaining?
- Is at least 50 percent of the tree's crown still intact?
- Are there remaining branches that can form a new branch structure?

If the answer is yes to the majority of these questions, there is a good chance the tree can be saved. Best to consult a professional to see what can be done.

Always consider wildlife.

Birds or bees may have been taking temporary storm shelter in your trees. So be careful & mindful of that.

