

STORM DAMAGED TREES
TALKING POINTS

- Fallen trees can be extremely hazardous and can create liabilities for homeowners. Don't attempt "do it yourself" storm clean-up.
- Trees that have fallen onto power lines create especially dangerous situations. Contact your power company if fallen power lines are present on your property.
- If you experience a downed tree due to inclement weather in the coming days, here are a few ways to report it:
 - If the tree has fallen into the right-of-way (roadway), but it is not blocking the road (cars can still get past), please report the issue to the local jurisdiction.
 - If a tree has fallen into the roadway and is blocking the roadway, call the local jurisdiction's non-emergency line.
 - If a tree has fallen and has created a hazardous situation that threatens personal or public safety (ex. It has taken down power lines or has fallen and injured or trapped someone), call 911. Remember to please use 911 only in emergency situations. Using 911 for anything other than true emergencies can potentially hamper our emergency response for someone else.
- Contact your insurance company and take pictures before any yard clean-up begins. Your insurance company cannot dictate which company you use. They can require multiple bids.
- It is not safe for homeowners to clear large tree limbs, especially overhead ones. **HOMEOWNERS SHOULD ONLY ATTEMPT TO CLEAN UP MINOR TREE DEBRIS.**
- Downed trees and overlaying branches are likely to be under tension and may snap violently and cause personal injuries when moved.
- Leaning trees or large branches on roofs can cause significant structural damage and movement should not be attempted by homeowners.
- Contact a Certified Arborist for professional help in determining which limbs should be cleared and the prognosis for tree survival.
- Make sure the tree service has storm management experience. Do not pay anything up front.
- Beware of drive-by tree services; always make sure you hire a Certified Arborist who is insured.

- Know how and when debris clean-up will be handled by local government; place debris in an accessible area that will not restrict your movements.
- Pile recyclable woody debris separately.
- Have patience. Storm debris clean-up can take weeks or months. Your perceived immediacy of need for removal may cost you thousands of dollars unnecessarily.
- Certified Arborists know how to remedy hazardous tree situations. They can help you pre-plan for storms through proper species placement, care, and maintenance.
- TO FIND A CERTIFIED ARBORIST, VISIT THE GEORGIA ARBORIST ASSOCIATION WEBSITE AT GEORGIAARBORIST.ORG.