

WHAT TO DO AFTER SEVERE STORM DAMAGE?

Severe weather can have a lasting impact on your home and its surrounding landscape. Tearing winds and penetrating rains work together, softening soils and overturning trees. Lightning strikes generate heat that vaporizes water within the tree causing wood to split, and bark to explode. Heavy snow and ice may bring limbs and power lines down, leaving you without power, and potentially damaging nearby structures or vehicles.

During a storm, the failure of part or all of one mature tree may cause significant damage to a property. What do you do after a storm damages your tree? How can you respond safely and quickly – getting your life back in order in a timely manner?



LIGHTNING

1 Assess the damages

Evaluate your trees carefully by asking the following questions:

- Are major limbs still remaining and the trunk unbroken?
- Are at least 50 percent of the tree's branches still intact?

If you answered yes to these questions, there is a good chance for complete recovery.

For assistance in evaluating tree damage, contact a professional arborist.

2 Take safety precautions

It is important to consider the potential hazards associated with working on and around storm damaged trees:

- Storm-damaged trees may be in contact with electrical wires; direct or indirect contact can cause injury or death by electrocution.
- Broken limbs dangling overhead in trees or on roofs may fall and lead to injury or death.
- Trees and limbs under tension may react unexpectedly when cut. Death or injury may occur if these forces are not accounted for.
- Removing trees or branches in close proximity to electrical lines or structures requires knowledge and experience. Mistakes can be costly, causing property damage, injury, or death.

WIND

3 Resist the urge to do it yourself

You may be tempted to begin clean up and remove downed limbs and debris yourself. If large limbs are broken or hanging, or if a ladder or overhead chain saw work is needed, it's a job for a professional arborist.

4 Hire an ISA Certified Arborist

Professional arborists have the experience and equipment needed to safely and efficiently remove or prune severely damaged trees and haul away unwanted woody debris.

Many professional arborists choose to pursue certification through the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA).

An ISA Certified Arborist has demonstrated a high level of knowledge and experience in tree care and continues to further his or her professional development through continuing education and training. A Certified Arborist can help you assess the extent of the damage caused by a storm and help you decide what action is appropriate.



AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION...

While it is impossible to prevent all storm-related damage to trees, an ISA Certified Arborist can help identify potential areas of concern and help prepare your tree for inclement weather. Preventative tree care may include:

- Training young trees to improve their form
- Identifying branch, trunk, and root defects that may weaken a tree, and recommending ways to manage them
- Removing dead or defective branches
- Correcting problems caused by improper care practices, such as topping, that have occurred in the past

WHERE CAN I FIND AN ISA CERTIFIED ARBORIST?



www.isa-arbor.com/find-arborist/findarborist.aspx

Visit ISA's website and search by location, zip code, name, or certification number.



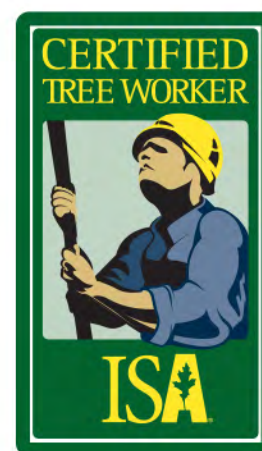
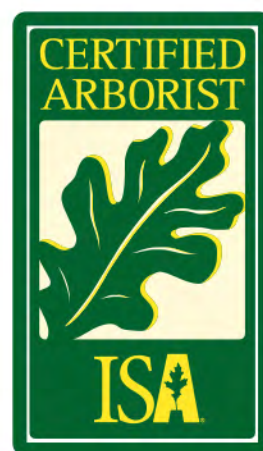
888-ISA-TREE

Call with your location and someone will be happy to assist you.



www.treesaregood.org

Search for a tree care service on the Trees are Good website.



Look for these credentials when hiring a professional arborist.



PO Box 3129
Champaign IL 61826-3129
www.isa-arbor.com



weathering the STORM



**Safe Response
to Tree-Related
Storm Damage**

