

For Immediate Release

Five ways to prepare trees for potentially damaging weather

CHAMPAIGN, IL (October 2013) – Tropical Storm Karen lost steam in the Gulf of Mexico earlier this month and did not achieve hurricane status. Weather experts at the National Oceanic Atmospheric Association (NOAA) say even though seasonal tropical storms have been weaker, it's still important to be prepared for the next big event around the corner.

The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) offers practical ways to protect trees from damaging high winds and violent rain, reducing the chance of property damage and costly repair.

Here are five recommended steps to get started:

- **Survey property for trees showing signs of instability** - ISA suggests looking for cracks in trunks of major limbs, dead branches, aged or decaying trees.
- **Take action to remedy potential hazards** - Inspect trees that could cause property damage before a storm hits by checking for branches that hang over the roof or those close to power lines.
- **Prevent damage by being proactive** - Once an issue is found, follow a checklist. Have a professional remove damaged or decaying trees. Call the local utility company to have branches close to power lines pruned or removed. Leaning trees may have root issues so have them inspected by an ISA Certified Arborist.
- **Document tree value** - Properly maintained trees may increase property value by up to 20%. An ISA Certified Arborist can provide an estimated value by inspecting your trees. Keep a good record with photos of the trees and the arborist's evaluation.
- **Hire an ISA Certified Arborist** - An ISA Certified Arborist can develop a master plan for your bush shrub and tree care. They can also best determine if broken trunks and limbs should be removed or if uprooted trees can be saved or replanted.

With more than 20,000 members worldwide and located in nearly every U.S. metropolitan area, ISA Certified Arborists can guide consumers and offer valuable perspective on protecting trees from weather damage.

About ISA

The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), headquartered in Champaign, Ill., U.S., is a nonprofit organization supporting tree care research and education around the world. To promote the importance of arboriculture, ISA manages the consumer education web site, www.treesaregood.org, which fulfills the association's mission to help educate the public about the importance and value of proper tree care. Also, as part of ISA's dedication to the care and preservation of shade and ornamental trees, it offers the only internationally-recognized certification program in the industry. For more information on ISA and Certified Arborists, visit www.isa-arbor.com.