

Sperry Tree Care

NEWSLETTER

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Storm
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AFTER THE STORM

There was a big storm. Now what? Once the storm has cleared, look over your property to determine if there has been any damage or if any dangerous situations have been created. This might be a downed power line or a tree that is now leaning against your house precariously. Once you know what you're dealing with you can determine the best course of action. If you have concerns about a power line, contact the electric company. If it's an issue with a tree, you're likely going to need the help of an experienced arborist and tree care company.



WHAT TO LOOK FOR

It is important to remember that trees sometimes still come down after a storm event is over. Extreme caution is always advised. Stay clear of any trees that are now leaning and remember that a tree that is still standing straight may have broken or loose branches. It's important to address clear damage while being aware that impending threats might not be obvious to the untrained eye. When assessing damage, don't forget to look up! Broken branches up above can suddenly drop without warning.

WIND

In a wind storm, damage can range from broken branches to completely upended trees. If the force of the wind is greater than the strength of the developed root system the entire tree will be pushed over. Trunks can fail either by snapping or buckling, most often at an existing weak point such as a wound or decayed area.

SNOW & ICE

Following a snow or ice storm it is important to remember that everything is slippery, posing a falling hazard. Also, snow and ice can dislodge from above, potentially breaking branches on its way down. Removing snow before it has a chance to turn to ice is recommended, but do not shake the tree as this might cause branches to snap. Gently brush the snow off if you can. Using a broom can be helpful and will extend your reach.

RAIN

During heavy or extended periods of rain the ground can become saturated. If the root system is not adequate in size and strength the weight of the tree can become too much to support. When this happens trees can become uprooted.



CONTACT AN ARBORIST

If the community has experienced a severe storm event there are likely to be many people trying to secure the services of a tree care company. Expect that their phones will be busy and you may need to leave a message. At Sperry, we recommend requesting an appointment on our website for the fastest service. We'll be working to triage requests based on the level of danger posed by each situation, because a tree that has fallen in a wide-open space doesn't have the same urgency as a tree that has fallen through the roof of someone's home. If you believe your homeowners insurance may come into play, you should contact them right away as well.



DESCRIBING YOUR SITUATION

Whether you are speaking to someone on the phone, leaving a message, or completing an online form, being able to accurately describe your situation will get you the help you need in the timeliest manner. If a tree is leaning, what will it damage if it falls? Is a tree already resting on the house somewhat securely, or threatening to crush the dining room? A large branch is on the roof? It can likely stay there a few days without causing further damage. This is the time for facts over emotion, though it's understandable that you may be feeling very emotional.



ARBORIST ON SITE

Most tree care companies will schedule an appointment to come and look at the damage in order to assess the situation and develop a course of action. You can expect them to provide you with a written estimate describing the work that will be performed. Things that they will take into consideration includes the overall scope of the project, ease of access to the work site, the equipment needed and the number of crew that will be required to get the job done. Depending on the outcome of their assessment the work might take place the same day or be scheduled several weeks out, based on availability.

Complex situations require the knowledge of professional arborists, as the work can be dangerous to both people and property. It takes special skills to deal with the weight of a tree or its parts and the equipment necessary to complete the job safely. Because of this, we recommend that the company you choose have the following:

- I.S.A. Certified Arborists
- Liability Insurance
- Workman's Compensation Insurance
- Experience with similar jobs



Notes
