

## **DO'S AND DON'TS WITH STORM DAMAGED TREES**

DON'T shelter under a tree during a storm – particularly if there is lightning near - if you hear thunder, lightning is near.

DON'T try to clean up storm damage on your own if there is any risk of injury.

DON'T touch or try to prune a broken branch that is within 10 feet of a live power line.

DO assume all power lines are live.

DO stay far away from downed power poles, lines, cables or anything they are touching particularly fences, puddles, other trees, and vehicles.

DO put up with a large hanging branch until a qualified and properly equipped arborist is available.

DO avoid scam artists that may show up with chain saws and try to take advantage of you after a storm. Ask about their professional qualifications and proof of insurance. Tree companies must be either a NJ Licensed Tree Care Operator or NJ Licensed Tree Expert.

DO prune stubs of broken branches in the approved manner – close to the trunk but not so that you damage nearby bark or trunk wood. Repair damaged bark by trimming.

DON'T block street drains with branches while waiting for yard waste collection.

DON'T attempt to restore the shape of a tree that has suffered the loss of its main stem by pruning lateral branches. The result will probably be disappointing and potentially dangerous. Consult a qualified arborist that understands how the tree will react to damage and pruning.

DO follow up a month or two after a storm to check for and remedy tree damage or decay that may have been hidden by leaves or branches, and could be a hazard in a future storm.

DO remember that trees are living and complex. Like people, they change as they age, are impacted by their environment and do not live forever. Treating them well will promote health and longevity and they will reward your tender care.

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