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DFW POST-STORM DAMAGE AND TREE CARE PSA

Texas Trees Foundation advice for post-storm tree care and recovery for residents.

DALLAS, TX – The [Texas Trees Foundation](http://www.texastrees.org), a research-driven tree planting and community building 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, offers the following insights for North Central Texas residents and businesses impacted by the severe storm which devastated many hundreds of trees on Sunday, June 9, 2019.

Electricity has been lost to many residents, streets have been blocked by fallen tree limbs and essentially, Mother Nature gave us two big lessons to learn. The first lesson always plant the right tree in the right place. Large trees near power lines will result in electric outages during storms. The second lesson, trees need care. Many of the trees that had broken limbs had poor canopy structure leading to included bark and weak points. Poor pruning cuts, disease and insects predispose trees to structural failure during heavy wind events.

“Trees play a critical role in the health and well being of our communities. They clean our air, slow water runoff, lower energy costs, increase property values, and provide a plethora of other benefits. Investing in your trees will pay off,” said Janette Monear, CEO of the Texas Trees Foundation.

Hiring qualified certified arborists to prune and care for your tree is an important step in eliminating problems during storms. When you hire an arborist ask the following questions:

1. Are they an ISA Certified Arborist? Ask to see their identification card.
2. Can they provide proof of insurance? Ask to see it.
3. Are they reputable? Ask for references.
4. Do they provide a free written estimate?
5. Will they top your trees? If they will, find someone else.

Corrective pruning and maintenance after a storm is important. Qualified arborists know what steps to take and how to work safely leaving you less liable in case an accident happens. Believe it or not, most storm damaged trees can be saved with proper care. Have your damaged trees inspected as soon as possible by a professional and pruned as needed. If you are going to prune your tree yourself remember – NEVER prune trees near power lines and always follow correct procedures for pruning. Correct pruning techniques can be obtained at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/naspi/sites/default/files/publications/htrunerev2012.pdf>.

Additional information regarding the pruning of storm damaged trees may be found at: <https://www.tdi.texas.gov/pubs/videoresource/fstreetrim.pdf>.

If replanting trees, make sure to pick the right tree for the right place. Don't plant large trees near power lines and make sure that the mature size of the tree, both in width and height, are considered. To find a list of trees specific to Texas go to the Texas Forest Service website: <http://texastreeid.tamu.edu/content/listOfTrees/>

Investing in trees is investing in the future, and trees are a good investment. With proper care, healthy trees planted in the right location, can tolerate storms and add a tremendous amount of value to our quality of life.

About Texas Trees Foundation: Texas Trees Foundation makes possible a higher quality of life for citizens, visitors and businesses through research, technology, and education to strategically protect, plant and care for trees and to assure that all projects show a return on investment to support growth and livability. Far more than a tree planting organization, Texas Trees works closely with collaborators who share a commitment to integrating trees and green infrastructure to improve the overall quality of life for the citizens who call North Texas home.

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