



## Hurricane Preparedness for Your Trees

**Our Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1<sup>st</sup> through November 30<sup>th</sup>. Are your trees ready for the next storm?**

As the Atlantic Hurricane Season approaches property owners and managers should consult with an ISA Certified Arborist to minimize the possibility of storm damage.

Not all damage occurring during a storm is a result of high winds alone. Property damage can also be a result of falling trees and flying landscape debris. The key to minimizing your risk against property damage is storm preparedness.

According to Dr. Ed Gilman from the University of Florida proper pruning can reduce the risk of storm damage, crown reduction and thinning can reduce wind damage, as wind resistance is important for a tree to remain standing after a hurricane.

There is no such thing as a hurricane-resistant landscape but with proper care and timely maintenance overseen by a certified arborist, trees can be more resistant to storm damage. Only a certified arborist can ensure that your trees are being properly cared for and have optimal growing conditions.

### **Pruning is Vital to Hurricane Damage Prevention**

A strong, deep-rooted tree may not fall during a storm, but weak limbs in the canopy may. Broken, dead and damaged limbs can be torn from trees during a storm and turned into dangerous projectiles.

Regular pruning done by a professional over the course of the tree's life can create a sturdy, well-spaced framework of healthy branches with an open canopy that allows wind to flow freely through.

**Continued on next page....**

## Warning Signs of Potential Tree Trouble Can Include:

- Dead, dying, hanging or broken branches
- Trees with dense canopies
- Trees with co-dominant trunks
- New plantings and young trees
- Branches too close to a house or structure
- Utility wires near or in contact with tree branches
- Heavy soil at tree base indicating an unsound root system
- Peeling bark or gaping wounds in the trunk indicating weakness
- Hollow areas on the trunk or main limbs that indicate a decayed stem
- Structural weakness such as cracked stems (trunks) that could cause catastrophic failure of a tree
- Leaning trees indicating a root problem or one-sided trees
- Insect infestation
- Diseased trees
- **Palm trees** don't need hurricane pruning. Palms are adapted to wind storms. Removing fronds is of no benefit and is detrimental to the palm. Even dying leaves benefit the health of the palm and should not be removed until completely brown. Only coconuts and large palm seeds should be removed during hurricane season.

[Schedule an appointment with our Certified Arborists](#) to see if these, or any other tree hazards, exist around your home.

## After the Hurricane Has Passed

Assess your property for damage and threats. An arborist should be contacted if you: need a chainsaw or ladder to prune away dead, dying or loose branches, if power lines are down, if you are unsure of the structural stability of a tree, or if you do not know if your tree can be saved. In some cases, even a tree that has sustained some damage (defoliated, broken, or blown over) can be treated.

Trees have a much better chance at surviving a storm if they have received proper care. Remember, healthy trees adjust quickly to changes in the environment and are may be more resilient to storm damage. Therefore, if you are proactive and take the necessary steps to minimize storm damage before it occurs, you can reduce the risk of property damage and save yourself any hassle and additional expense.

Questions? We are here to help. Call (904) 269-4069 or [click here to schedule an appointment with our Certified Arborists](#) from Tree Tech Tree Service.

