

HURRICANE GUIDE

FOUR STEPS TO PREPARE TREES

IDENTIFY | INSPECT | PRUNE | PROTECT

IDENTIFY

Learn to IDENTIFY warning signs before hurricane season starts. While they don't guarantee tree failure, these risks are good indicators.

1. Is the tree near a building or high-traffic area?



2. Are there any large, dead branches?



3. Does the tree lean significantly?



4. Do the tree branches meet in a "V" instead of a "U"?



INSPECT

If your trees show any of these warning signs, it's time to get them INSPECTED by a professional. Don't wait until hurricane season!

Determine if the tree is publicly or privately owned. Sagis.org has property lines!



If **publicly-owned**, contact your municipality to request an inspection.



If **privately-owned**, call a Certified Arborist to inspect your trees.



PRUNE

Having your trees PRUNED by a professional can decrease the likelihood of failure during storms. Make sure to hire a company with an arborist on staff!

Beware of “chop and drop” tree care companies, which can advocate for unnecessary tree removal.



Avoid companies that advertise “tree-topping” or that use tree spikes to climb healthy trees.



A good tree company has an ISA-certified arborist, proof of insurance, and a list of references.



PROTECT

What happens after a storm? Follow the last step, PROTECT, to keep yourself, your property, and others out of harm’s way.

If a tree or limb comes down in a storm, do not touch or move it until you’ve assessed the situation.



Downed trees can hold tension and snap back if cut or removed improperly, resulting in serious injury.



If an above ground powerline or power pole has been damaged, call Georgia Power.

1-888-891-0938



If any other utilities, such as water or gas lines, have been damaged...
If a tree fell on public property...



Call **311** in Savannah City limits, or **912-652-6840** elsewhere in Chatham County.



If a tree fell on your property, call your landlord, if necessary, and your insurance provider. Then call a certified arborist for removal.

