

## Required Information

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## Comments

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THE ATTACHED, HAS STILL NOT BEEN POSTED ON THE COMMITTEE'S WEB SITE:

They say a picture is worth a thousand words. Or in this case, a picture can prevent the loss of human lives and prevent the destruction of personal property. We have hundreds of drone, ground, press and safety pictures of trees threatening to fall into homes, condominiums, vehicles, etc. We also have press pictures showing trees that HAVE already fallen into homes and condominiums, and have killed humans including children and caused a great deal of property destruction. This should be an easy situation to resolve if committee members would review these pictures and other information relevant to this situation we received through the Freedom of Information Act. The simplistic solution would remove those hazardous trees (some are 20', 40', and upward to 60', and, the trees are only a few feet from the SUNROOMS of these condominiums. The SUNROOMS are where most residents watch television, visit, play cards, play with children and some sleep on Murphy beds. And, yet the trees that can kill them are only a few feet away from. A very thin piece of glass is all that separates the residence from trees and debris killing them.

As we all know, Branson area is subject to Ice storm like the ice storm of 2007, strong thunderstorms with devastating wind and hail heavy snow storms, tornadoes, and fire. The winds, ice and thunderstorms, etc., snap those branches or ever the entire tree out of the ground/roots and the tree/branches will crash through the SUNROOM OR EVEN FALL ENTIRELY THROUGH THE CONDOMINIUM. We also have a picture where the tree fell through an entire Condominium. I am addressing the Towers on the Lake on Emerald Pointe Drive, Table Rock Lake. We are addressing not only the Cedar which is NOT a tree. The Cedar is considered a brush, a nuisance weed, or a bush and has no ecological value whatsoever.

We would like for an independent team to evaluate all vegetation that could be dangerous to human life and or extensive property damage. A member could be a USACE rep, a Missouri Conversationalist, and a vegetation/tree expert. We would highly recommend the simple solution of replacing the targeted trees and vegetation with natural native grasses which, is generally agreed, are much better to eliminate any erosion of the ground. We would also recommend that the classification of the ground is totally

irrelevant when it comes to human life. We would also recommend that we obtain a Dangerous tree/vegetation removal permit from the USACE. And, that the permit allows the residents to remove all the threatening vegetation/trees 200' from the base of the building to include that which may be on USACE regulated land. In closing, should the USACE deny any or all of our proposal(s), then we would need an appeal process rather than the "rubber stamped" process that now exists. If anyone wants copies of the pictures or any other information, please contact me. Kentusm@aol.com 913-626-4456

#### TREES AND STORM SAFETY

Storm events such as tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, hurricanes, and ice can considerably impact trees. Below are some of the impacts caused by hurricanes, tornados, or storm events and information to assist homeowners and community officials to prepare and respond quickly and safely before and after storm events. Courtesy: Georgia Forestry Commission Wind

Wind is often the first sign of a hurricane approaching. Leaves and branches may be stripped off and entire trees may be twisted, broken or uprooted altogether. Some trees are more susceptible to wind damage than others. Trees with healthy root systems have better chances of survival. However, if remaining trees survive one storm, and another hurricane encompasses the same area in a short period of time, those remaining trees are considered stressed and may not make it through subsequent storms. Hurricanes can also produce tornadoes with winds measuring more than 200 mph. Trees may be completely debarked by small, flying debris or downed altogether. In either case, these trees will need to be removed.

Lightning Hurricanes also are typically accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning.. Because of their height, trees are a prime target for lightning. However, damage caused by lightning varies greatly. The damage may be minimal if the electricity is conducted along the outside of the tree. In this case, blown off bark and scarring will be apparent. The damage may extend to a more serious condition known as trunk shatter. In this event, lightning charge penetrates into the tree's trunk, turning moisture into steam and causing the tree to explode. The most commonly struck trees are oaks, elms, poplars and pines. These trees typically are found in most yards.

#### Flooding

After hurricanes strike, many low-lying communities are impacted by short-term flooding. Flooding has been known to damage trees by loosening and/or removing the soil that supports root systems. In areas that have been flooded for extended periods of time, trees can suffer from the accumulation of organic toxins in the soil and the reduced flow of oxygen to the roots. Various characteristics of a tree, including height, age and species, along with environmental factors like season, temperature and flood water duration, affect a tree's flood tolerance. The typical warning sign of flood damage in trees is curling and wilting of the leaves, followed by chlorosis (pale-colored leaves that have lost chlorophyll). Chlorosis is generally followed by leaf browning and ultimately, leaf loss.

#### Ice

Ice storms are caused by rain that supercools or freezes as it passes through below-freezing air. These ice coatings can grow to be several inches thick in various places. The weight of the ice, combined with any wind or outside forces, breaks the trees' branches. Normally, the taller and older a tree, the more susceptible it is to ice damage because older trees have larger crowns, more internal decay, and less limb and trunk flexibility. The severity of the ice damage depends on ice load and resistance of the trees determined by their physical characteristics - wood strength, elasticity and growth form, and on condition of the growing environment. In general, trees with brittle and weak wood, fine branches, and

greater canopy surface, such as pine trees which retain their needles, are more likely to suffer ice damage. Some trees that have a high ice storm survival rates include: yellow birch, American hornbeam, beech and oak. An effective storm plan should include the following: Preparation For homeowners, this may include contacting a certified arborist. For community officials planning includes: an early warning system for severe weather, a disaster response plan, identification of roles of municipal entities during a disaster, and identification of sources of additional assistance during an emergency. Homeowners Urban trees provide health, environmental, economic, and aesthetic values to communities, businesses, and homes. Trees that are not properly maintained or which are stressed can quickly become major liabilities to people and property from weather phenomena.

Immediate responses may be either to prune or remove your trees. These “do-it-yourself” efforts sometimes result in personal injuries, fatalities, or property damage that homeowners are attempting to avoid. You can cause greater harm to the urban forest by removing healthy trees that do not need to be cut.

\* Preparing for storms is as easy as ...

\* Conducting Self-Surveys - These help you learn about your urban environment and prepare you to meet with a certified arborist. Conduct a survey annually, note changes to tree structures each time, and call a certified arborist, if needed.

\* Giving Routine Tree Care - Trees need watering, fertilizing, and mulching. Certified arborists can help you determine which trees will need certain care at various times of the year. Add this information to your surveys for future reference!

\* Hiring Certified Arborists - They know how to remedy hazardous tree situations (pruning and/or removing trees) and should be consulted every other year to update tree assessments and provide major tree care, if needed. Certified arborists are trained to plant, care, and maintain trees. They have at least three years experience and have passed a comprehensive exam by an industry association. Certification relates to their knowledge of trees and tree physiology and requires them to remain updated in the latest arboriculture techniques. It does not govern individual performance, though.

\* Community Officials

An effective storm plan will help to minimize a storm's impacts on your community forest. The Emergency Response Plan developed in Columbus, GA is a good example.

Response - immediate activity during and after the disaster. Examples include tree damage clean up, clearance, office/field communications, identification of debris disposal options, and the use of efficient record-keeping methods.

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