

North Side tornado tree debris pickup begins

Written by

Wednesday, 25 May 2011 13:13

Public Works and Park Board crews will collect tree debris that can be brought to the boulevard beginning Wednesday, May 25 through June 10 for properties affected by the tornado in the city west of Interstate 94 and north of Highway 55 (Olson Memorial Highway). This service is for property owners clearing their property of tree debris after storm damage only—it is not for contractors doing work for property owners or for regular tree pruning. It is only for tree debris, not construction and demolition debris, garbage or other materials.

Here's how residents in the area can prepare downed trees and branches for collection:

- Move larger limbs, branches, and trunks to the boulevard area in front of your house. The City will pick up and dispose of these items at no charge. Crews will collect tree debris from the boulevards beginning May 25 through June 10.
- Property owners adjacent to tree debris placed on the boulevard are asked not to park vehicles near the debris, to help crews in the removal process. "No parking" signs may be posted and enforced to facilitate the cleanup operation.
- If residents have large tree debris that is located in the back of the house by the alley, call 311 to request an alley pick-up. However, please be advised that this may not be possible in some instances if the needed equipment cannot access the site.
- For property owners outside of the defined area that also have storm damaged tree debris, call 311 to request service. Crews will assess the request to see if it qualifies for this special service.
- After June 10, property owners can continue to use the City's regular yard waste services to get rid of small storm debris. These services include the collection of limbs that are less than 3 inches in diameter, are cut to less than 3 feet long, and are bundled with rope or twine (do not use wire). The bundles should not weigh more than 40 pounds.
- Before clearing trees and debris make sure there are no downed power lines. Residents can contact Xcel Energy at 1-800-895-1999 to report damaged power lines.

North Transfer Station accepting debris

The North Transfer Station at 2710 Pacific St. will also begin accepting debris at noon on Wednesday, May 25 for those affected by the tornado. Concrete, sheetrock, wood and shingles will be accepted for Solid Waste & Recycling customers who reside in the following neighborhoods: Folwell, Hawthorne, Jordan, Lind-Bohanon, McKinley, Near North, Webber-Camden and Willard-Hay. The Transfer Station is open Monday-Saturday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. (hours on Memorial Day, Monday, May 30, are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.) A voucher is needed to bring debris to the North Transfer Station. To obtain a voucher, customers need to call 673-2917 or 311. **ONLY** Voucher customers will be allowed to use the North Transfer Station. Solid Waste & Recycling customers outside of these neighborhoods affected by the storm should continue to use the South Transfer station voucher program.

Clearing other debris

If you have debris from a building, such as your home or business, contain the debris until you can properly dispose of it. Eliminate hazards, such as projecting pieces, broken glass or anything overhead that has come loose. Protect debris from the wind and from anyone who may come along and disturb it. If you have concerns about asbestos in your building debris, contact the Minnesota Department of Health asbestos program at (651) 201-4620 or at health.asbestos@state.mn.us

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Make sure your contractor or tree company is licensed

Minneapolis Regulatory Services officials are reminding property owners who experienced property damage from the storm to hire only licensed tree service companies and building contractors. The City and State make it easy for you to find out if a company has the proper licenses.

Tree contractors - It's important to make sure the tree company you use is licensed, because unlicensed companies may not be insured for damage they might cause to your property, and their workers may not be properly trained to protect themselves and your property from damage. Here are some things residents should know when choosing a tree company:

- To find out if a tree service contractor is licensed in Minneapolis, visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/business-licensing/treeservice.asp or call 311. To confirm the status of a new licensee or to file a complaint, call 311.
- A licensed contractor must submit a copy of a written estimate to the property owner for approval prior to any work to be performed.
- Licensed Tree Service contractors have marked vehicles and display a City of Minneapolis license decal.
- Licensed Tree Service contractors maintain insurance in the event of damage to your property, your neighbors' property, or if anyone is injured on the job site.
- In addition, the City requires that each tree service company hire at least one employee who has a current certification as an arborist or a college degree in urban forestry or arboriculture. This ensures the company is educated in plant health, pests and pathogen control, and other aspects of urban forestry.

Building contractors - Anyone performing remodeling, repairs, roofing, and other similar work on residential dwellings must be licensed. Licensed construction professionals are insured and bonded, and obtain building permits which allow inspections of the work performed to ensure that it is done correctly. For a list of State Licensed building contractors please go to the following web site: <https://secure.doli.state.mn.us/licensing/licensing.aspx> .

To confirm the license status of a licensee, or to file a complaint, please call 311 or the Business License Division at (612) 673-2080.

Resources for homeowners

If you have questions about your homeowner's insurance and needed rehab related to the storm damage, contact your insurance company or these local organizations:

- Center for Energy & Environment, (612) 335-5884
- Housing Resource Center North, (612) 588-3033
- Neighborhood Housing Services of Minneapolis, (612) 521-3581