

September 15, 2017

Removal Process for Storm-Damaged Trees in Unincorporated Beaufort County

After severe storms such as Hurricane Irma, a common reaction is the removal of trees to limit future damage potential. Many trees may not require attention, some trees may need restoration, and others may need to be removed.

Beaufort County understands that residential and commercial property owners must decide what to do with storm-damaged trees. As a result, the County is temporarily adjusting its tree removal requirements for **unincorporated areas** now through the end of the year:

1. Single-family residential lots **with** an existing dwelling unit as of September 11, 2017, will be **exempt** from obtaining tree removal permits until December 31, 2017, so that **only those trees damaged by Hurricane Irma may be removed. Mitigation (plant-back) will not be required.**
2. Single-family residential lots **without** existing dwelling units should contact the [Beaufort County Community Development Department](#) (formerly the Planning Department) and provide information on trees damaged by Hurricane Irma to include photos, type, and size of trees. A site visit by the County's Natural Resources Planner may be necessary. Mitigation (plant-back) will **not** be required.
3. Commercial property owners and residential developments having trees within common areas should contact the Community Development Department to provide information on trees damaged by Hurricane Irma including photos, type, and size of trees. A site visit by the County's Natural Resources Planner may be necessary. Mitigation (plant-back) of one 2.5" caliper (trunk diameter) tree for one damaged tree **will** be required.

For more information, contact the Community Development Department at 843-255-2140.

Additional information regarding trees:

Preventing Tree Problems

- Perform a self-assessment every six months by walking around your front and back yards and checking for any problematic signs.
- Schedule an arborist to visit your property every year or every other year.

Signs of Trees in Danger

- Noticeable tree lean after a storm
- Large cracks in the lower trunk
- Significant hollowing inside the tree
- Severed or broken roots near the trunk of the tree