

Hazard Tree Assessment and Removal - Understanding the services provided

The purpose of the program is to assist the elderly and disabled with the assessment and possible removal of hazard trees. Hazardous trees are defined as a tree with structural defects likely to cause failure of all or part of the tree, which could strike a "target." A target can be a vehicle, driveway, building, or any other place where people gather or reside. Hazardous tree removal requires specialized training and equipment to ensure the safety of people and to prevent damage to property. The project is very limited and therefore signing up does not guarantee that services will be provided. Because of this, priority is given to the Elderly and the Disabled.

Each site will be inspected to assess that a hazardous tree is present. Priority will be given to trees that pose imminent danger for elders 65-years of age and older and the disabled. **Ornamental pruning and trimming will not be performed through these services.**

The assessment process that the program will follow:

- 1 - Applications are received through community sign-ups
- 2 - Sites are visited by the Forestry Technician and trees are assessed
- 3 - Sites are ranked according to technical criteria for hazards, with imminent hazards receiving the highest priority (trees not considered a hazard will be removed from list)
- 4 - Sites are estimated by the Tribe's contractor for cost of removal
- 5 - Hazard trees are removed within limits of program budget.

Hazard trees not addressed in the year of sign up will be re-evaluated in following funding cycles. The contractor will only perform work as authorized under their contract. Landowners will be financially responsible for any additional work requested of the contractor. Work sites will only be serviced once in a year. **A waiver and permission form must be completed and signed before work is done.**

Hazard Tree services must be requested in person at the Environment Division office, 449 Frogtown Road, Akwesasne unless an elder's circumstance prevents them from coming into the office or if a person is disabled and can't come to the office. In these case's the Forestry Program will arrange a home visit. Applications will be received at the beginning of the seasonal program and actual work will begin in late May or early June when weather and ground conditions permit.

Contact the Environment Division for more information (518) 358-5937. The community is reminded to never attempt tree removal on their own, especially if the tree is near power lines or buildings. If a contractor is called in they should ensure that they are qualified and insured and provide a written quote before proceeding.

Guidelines Used by Foresters/Arborists in Assessing Hazard Trees which could strike a "target."

1. Dead trees of any species

2. Dying tree

a. Foliage transparency 40% + (thin crown, off-color or dwarfed foliage)

b. Borer attacks obvious and abundant - the presence of insect activity, such as bark beetles or Ips, may indicate that a tree has been weakened by other agents.

3. Trees likely to be wind thrown after removal of adjacent dead and dying trees.

(Removal of more than 1/3 of a stand's basal area increases risk of wind throw to remaining trees.)

4. Trees with significant defects:

a. Canker rots

b. Root rots

c. Trunk injuries (mechanical damage, stem decay, etc.)

d. Crown defects (broken or damaged branches, forked tops, dead tops, etc.)