Hazardous Trees: How to Help Mitigate Risks

Dead or defective trees can pose a hazard to travel plans and/or safety. Please keep a close eye on trees around your home, property and frequently traveled routes … for everyone in the family.

In particular, dead or dying Ash trees can fall over or collapse without warning, particularly once sheaths of bark have started to shed from the dead trunks. Anything which sits underneath the branches of a dead tree — or nearby — is vulnerable to being damaged or crushed, if the main trunk of the tree is toppled. [See photo].

High winds, lightning, heavy snow and ice can result in power outages — almost always because of damage sustained by trees; residents can help reduce the risk by reporting hazardous trees (i.e. those that are dead, in poor health or have structural defects and the potential to fall on power lines and equipment) directly to **Eversource Vegetation Management at (844) 275-3302**.

Residents can also report dangerous trees (or other safety-related problems) along State highways to <u>CTDOT Customer Care</u> (web site; select option "Report an issue on state roads"), send email to <u>DOT.CustomerCare@ct.gov</u>, or phone **(860) 594-2560** during business hours.

Please note: the web site option above is superior to both the email and telephone options; not only is the system available 24 hours each day, the application prompts the user to provide all needed information in a logical and efficient manner, and automatically directs appropriate staff to inspect the problem on a timely basis.

If the hazardous tree is located on Town property, including Ridgefield's "right of way" along Town roads, please notify Ridgefield Tree Warden Steve Lavatori at <u>treewarden@ridgefieldct.gov</u> or **(203) 431-2358.**

For hazardous trees on your own property, you may want to consult an arborist for suggestions and/or hire a tree service to address the issues or remove them entirely. Likewise, if you notice hazardous trees on a neighbor's property, please let them know; it's the neighborly thing to do.

Thank you for your vigilance … and reporting dead or defective trees that can pose a risk to safety!

Town of Ridgefield Tree Committee