Caught in the Crosswinds

Planning for urban forestry storm response

Micki McNaughton
We have storms...

- Rounds of heavy rain
- Strong winds
- Heavy mountain snowfall

AccuWeather
…we have trees
We have a problem when the two collide.
What can we do?

• Prepare thoroughly
  – Emergency planning
  – Public education
  – Develop media messages

• Respond Calmly
  – Immediate
  – Mid-term
  – Long-range
Storm Preparation

• Emergency Response Planning
  – Participate in local response plan preparation
  – Coordinate with local utility provider
  – Integrate tree responses
  – Help publicize the plan
Storm Preparation

• Public Education
  – Help publicize the emergency response plan
  – Consistent messaging
  – Tree inspections

– **DON’T TOP TREES!!**
Don’t top your trees!

It doesn’t make trees safer—just uglier and more hazardous in the next storm.
Storm Preparation

• Develop media messages
  – Have a storm information packet on hand
  – Coordinate messages with local ICS
  – Keep messages short and to the point
  – Be calm and clear
  – Be prepared to talk to the media

**WARNING!**

*Media will usually portray damage in the most sensational way possible!*
When trees attack

We live in a region surrounded by majestic trees, but the windstorm that upended so many left some homeowners with a different perspective on them.

BY DIANA WURN
Special to The Seattle Times

Bob LaBouy never used to worry about trees. In
Immediate Response

- Emergency Operations Plan
  - Prioritize clearance of service arterials
Immediate Response

- Emergency Operations
  - Prioritize clearance of service arterials
  - Street and utility clearance
Immediate Response

- Emergency Operations
  - Prioritize clearance of service arterials
  - Street and utility clearance
  - Other safety concerns
Mid-term Response

• What Happens Next?
  – Complete debris clean-up
  – Assess damaged trees
Can this tree be saved?

- Is the tree basically healthy?
- Are major limbs broken?
- Has the main leader been lost?
- Does at least 50% of its crown remain?
- How large are the wounds?
- Are there enough branches to form a new crown?
- Is the tree desirable for the location?
Mid-term Response

• What Happens Next?
  – Complete debris clean-up
  – Assess damaged trees
  – Schedule removals and remedial work
  – Head off the *Second Storm!*
More trees are removed *after* a storm than typically fail *during* a storm!

Don’t let the *Second Storm* happen to your community’s trees!
Storm Recovery

• **Long-range strategies:**

  – Regular tree inspections
  – Planned replacement of removed trees
  – Sustainable use of removed timber
  – Build resiliency into the urban forest
  – Maintain trees for health and sound structure
Healthy trees

- Adapt to stress
- Develop wind firmness over time
- Develop internal structure to deal with forces
- Recover with care

Trees are Dynamic!
**Command:** Develops the overall incident objectives and strategy, approves resource orders and demobilization, and approves the IAP by signature.

**Finance/Admin:** Develops cost analyses, ensures that the IAP is within the financial limits established by the IC, develops contracts, and pays for the resources.

**Operations Section:**
**Operations:** Assists with developing strategy, and identifies, assigns, and supervises the resources needed to accomplish the incident objectives.

**Planning Section:**
**Planning:** Provides status reports, manages the planning process, and produces the IAP.

**Logistics Section:**
**Logistics:** Orders resources and develops the Transportation, Communications, and Medical Plans.
Team Planning

- Prepare thoroughly
  - Emergency planning
  - Client education
  - Develop messaging for clients & media

- Respond Calmly
  - Immediate crisis
  - Follow-up
  - Long-term recovery
Team Planning

• What do we need for today?
  – Equipment
  – Gas
  – Safety gear
  – Traffic control
  – Communication
  – PEOPLE!!
Team Planning

• What do we need over the long haul?
  – Equipment
  – Gas
  – Safety gear
  – Traffic control
  – Communication
  – People
Team Leader

Administration
- Payroll
- Claims
- Payables
- Reports

Operations
- In-house
- Contractual
- Equipment
- Mapping

Communications
- Receive
- Distribute
- Public information
- Media

Logistics
- Equipment
- Supplies
- Personnel
- Mapping
Prepare for a green future...

• Have an emergency response plan in place
• Educate yourself and others
• Manage the present and future urban forest for storm resiliency
Your community’s trees and I thank you for your attention today!