

Hurricane Sally – Category A (Debris)



**Hazardous
Limbs, Trees,
and Stumps**

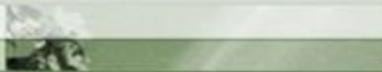


Broken Limb or Branch Removal

- Removal of broken limbs or branches that are 2 inches or larger in diameter (measured at the point of break) that pose an immediate threat are eligible.
 - FEMA does not fund removal of broken limbs or branches located on private property unless:
 - The limbs or branches extend over the public ROW;
 - The limbs or branches pose an immediate threat; and
 - The Applicant removes the hazard from the public ROW (without entering private property).
 - Only the minimum cut necessary to remove the hazard is eligible.
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Tree Removal

- FEMA considers incident-damaged trees to be hazardous and eligible if the tree has a diameter of 6 inches or greater measured 4.5 feet above ground level, and the tree:
 - Has a split trunk;
 - Has a broken canopy; or
 - Is leaning at an angle greater than 30 degrees.
 - For trees that have 50 percent or more of the root-ball exposed, removal of the tree and root-ball and filling the root-ball hole are eligible. For contracted removal of a tree with a root-ball, FEMA will not reimburse two separate unit costs to remove the tree and its root-ball.
 - For trees that have less than 50 percent of the root-ball exposed, FEMA only provides PA funding to flush cut the item at ground level and dispose of the cut portion based on volume or weight. Grinding any residual stump after cutting the tree is ineligible.
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Stump Removal

- For stumps that have 50 percent or more of the root-ball exposed, removal of the stump and filling the root-ball hole are eligible. If grinding a stump in-place is less costly than extraction, grinding the stump in-place is eligible.
 - FEMA only reimburses contracted costs charged on a per-stump basis if:
 - The stump is 2 feet or larger in diameter measured 2 feet above the ground; and
 - Extraction is required as part of the removal.
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Documentation Requirements for Hazardous Limbs, Trees, and Stumps

- The Applicant must retain, and provide when requested, all of the following documentation to support the eligibility of contracted work to remove tree limbs, branches, stumps, or trees that are still in place:
 - Specifics of the immediate threat with the location (geographical coordinates in latitude, longitude) and photograph or video documentation that establishes the item is on public property (required, FEMA reviews a representative sample);
 - Quantity removed (Note: If a contractor charged an individual price for each limb, tree, or stump removed, FEMA requires the diameter of each item removed. For stumps, the measurement must be 2 feet up the trunk from the ground. For trees, it must be 4.5 feet up from the ground.) (required);
 - Quantity, location, and source of material to fill root-ball holes (required); and
 - Equipment used to perform the work (required).
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Eligible versus Ineligible

- Eligible vegetative debris may include tree limbs, branches, stumps, or trees that are still in place, but damaged to the extent they pose an immediate threat.
 - These items are ineligible if the hazard existed prior to the incident, or if the item is in a natural area and does not extend over improved property or public-use areas, such as trails, sidewalks, or playgrounds.
 - Bracing a tree is eligible (as Category B) only when doing so is less costly than removal and disposal. If the Applicant chooses to brace a tree rather than remove it, the tree is ineligible for removal later if it dies.
 - Pruning, maintenance, trimming, and landscaping are ineligible.
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Hazard Removal versus Tree Pruning Maintenance

- **Hazard Pruning** is recommended when the primary objective is to reduce the danger to a specific target caused by visibly defined **hazards** in a **tree**.
 - Goal is to limit the county's liability by removing current visible hazards
 - **Maintenance Pruning** is recommended when the primary objective is to maintain **or** improve **tree** health and structure, involves the selective removal of certain parts of a plant, such as branches, buds, or roots.
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