



THE TOWNSHIP TREEBUNE

Larry Maginnis, Township Arborist

Issue No. 8

Township Provides 24 / 7 Tree Emergency Response

With the arrival of winter storm season, the Township experiences an uptick in unpredictable tree failures. These failures are often hazardous and cause disruptions that need to be mitigated. Fortunately, the Township has a 24/7 tree emergency response protocol to ensure these tree emergencies are addressed in a timely manner.

A tree emergency can be defined as an *imminent threat* to public safety or infrastructure that is time sensitive. Trees blocking or threatening safe use of public rights-of-way including roads, bike lanes or sidewalks must be abated. Other tree hazards include partially failed trees or uprooting/leaning trees that threaten the roadway below. It is especially important that downed trees do not hinder access for emergency service vehicles.



The Township's Public Works Department is well trained and outfitted to respond to various types of tree emergencies. Once an emergency is reported, a team of responders are dispatched immediately and can mitigate the hazard in a very short time. All debris from Township owned trees is removed. If a private tree falls onto the right-of-way, Township staff will clear the roadway and remove debris within reason. The remaining debris will be neatly stacked on private property for the adjacent property owner to dispose of.

Please do not approach a downed tree if utility wires are present.

For tree-related inquiries, please contact the Township Arborist at 814-238-4651 or arborist@twp.ferguson.pa.us.