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# Tornado Recovery Updates

from the City of Minneapolis

[www.minneapolismn.gov/tornado](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/tornado)

## Tree stump removal is under way—sidewalk repairs begin in September

Park and Recreation Board crews have started removing more than 1,500 boulevard tree stumps left by the May 22 tornado. Work on these “tipped” stumps is expected to last into mid September.

Once the stumps are removed, the City will be able to begin repairs to sidewalks that were damaged in the tornado. Sidewalk repairs are expected to begin around September 1, and the Mayor and City Council have approved plans to make sidewalk repairs without assessing any of the cost to property owners.

About 1,600 sidewalk panels were damaged when the tornado toppled trees along the sidewalks and curbs, causing the roots to push up the concrete. Once the tree stumps and roots are removed, the ground can be patched up and sidewalk work can begin.

## Need help paying for tree removal?

Homeowners who still have fallen trees on their property are responsible for their removal, and the City has a financing option available to help. With a homeowner’s permission, the City can finance the removal of the tree, have the work done, and assess the costs to the homeowner’s property taxes, spreading out payments over five years. Call 311 to learn more.

## Always use a licensed contractor

Before hiring a contractor to do work on your home or business, make sure they are licensed. This ensures they have the necessary training and insurance to do the job safely. It’s easy to learn if a contractor is licensed. Just visit [www.minneapolismn.gov/mdr/FindLicCont/](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/mdr/FindLicCont/).

## Call the hotline for recovery resources

The Northside Community Response Team Hotline is available to help people affected by the tornado reach recovery services and support. Just call (612) 787-3730 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday with questions on housing and legal issues, dealing with landlords, support for businesses, and more.

## Deadlines approach for repair loans

If you have tornado damage to repair, first contact your insurance company about filing a claim. Homeowners affected by the tornado who have questions about insurance claims, repair contracts, other real estate matters, or other legal issues can call the Volunteer Lawyers Network at (612) 752-6677.

If your insurance doesn’t cover the cost of repairs, apply for a Small Business Administration (SBA) loan. You must complete the SBA loan application to be eligible for many other forms of assistance. **You have until Sept. 6, 2011 to apply.** SBA loans (at approximately 2.5% interest for homeowners and renters and 4% for businesses) have credit and income qualifications. The amount the SBA will lend depends on the cost of repairing or replacing the home and/or personal property, minus any insurance settlements or grants.

To apply, email [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov) or call the SBA’s Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 or (800) 877-8339 for people with speech or hearing disabilities Monday - Friday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Loan applications are available for download from [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov).

When private insurance and SBA loans do not meet your tornado repair needs, other resources may be available. Contact these organizations to learn about available loans and grants:

**Center for Energy & Environment, (612) 335-5884, [www.mncee.org](http://www.mncee.org)**

**Housing Resource Center – North, (612) 588-3033, [www.gmhchousing.org](http://www.gmhchousing.org)**

**Neighborhood Housing Services, (612) 521-3581, [www.northsidenhs.org](http://www.northsidenhs.org)**

If your property did not receive substantial damage but you still need help, you may be eligible for assistance from these organizations:

**Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity, (612) 788-8169, [www.tchabitat.org](http://www.tchabitat.org)**

**Rebuilding Together, (651) 776-4273, [www.rebuildingtogether-twincities.org](http://www.rebuildingtogether-twincities.org)**