

## ICE STORM TALKING POINTS

- Ice storms are caused by rain that flash-freezes as it passes through a layer of below-freezing air.
- Ice coatings on tree branches can grow to inches thick in various places.
- The weight of the ice, or when combined with any wind or outside forces, can break trees branches, which can fall on overhead power lines or structures and create a dangerous situation.
- Taller, older trees are often more susceptible to ice damage, due to their larger branch area, internal decay and reduced limb and trunk flexibility.
- Trees with fine branches, less flexible branches, and greater leaf surface, such as pine trees, are more likely to suffer ice damage.
- It is not safe for homeowners to clear large tree limbs, especially overhead ones. **HOMEOWNERS SHOULD ONLY ATTEMPT TO CLEAN UP MINOR TREE DEBRIS.**
- Downed trees and overlaying branches are likely to be under tension and may snap violently and cause personal injuries when moved.
- Leaning trees or large branches on roofs can cause significant structural damage and movement should not be attempted by homeowners or inexperienced tree removal companies.
- Contact a Certified Arborist for professional help in determining which limbs should be cleared and the prognosis for tree survival.
- Beware of drive-by tree services; always make sure you hire a Certified Arborist who is insured.
- Certified Arborists know how to remedy hazardous tree situations. They can help you pre-plan for storms through proper species placement, care, and maintenance.
- If you experience a downed tree due to inclement weather in the coming days, here are a few ways to report it:
  - If the tree has fallen into the right-of-way (roadway), but it is not blocking the road (cars can still get past), please report the issue to the local jurisdiction.
  - If a tree has fallen into the roadway and is blocking the roadway, call the local jurisdiction's non-emergency line.

- If a tree has fallen and has created a hazardous situation that threatens personal or public safety (ex. It has taken down power lines or has fallen and injured or trapped someone), call 911. Remember to please use 911 only in emergency situations. Using 911 for anything other than true emergencies can potentially hamper our emergency response for someone else.
- TO FIND A CERTIFIED ARBORIST, VISIT THE GEORGIA ARBORIST ASSOCIATION WEBSITE AT [GEORGIAARBORIST.ORG](http://GEORGIAARBORIST.ORG).