

**PLAN.
PREPARE.
RECOVER.**

General Hurricane Fact Sheet

Plan, Prepare & Recover: Urban Land

- Design a preventative pruning (trimming) program
- Properly pruned trees survive hurricanes better than un-pruned trees
- Secure young trees
- Maintain diversity in your yard by planting a mixture of species, ages and layers to decrease total loss of your land
- Yard debris, decorations and/or furniture should be removed
- Depending on the extent of damage, trees have an amazing ability to recover after a storm
- When planting, take caution: It is important to plant taller trees away from overhead utility lines.
- When planting near lines, *mature* height should be no more than 25 feet tall and 20 feet wide
- With the right advice, properly placed trees will avoid collisions, improve aesthetics and grow well in the soil and moisture of your neighborhood

Plan, Prepare & Recover: Rural Forestland

- Develop a tree management plan with a professional
- Sound land management practices can help prevent hurricane damage to forestland
- Design a preventative pruning (trimming) program
- Select a design that can create a more wind-resistant forest
- Refer to a professional for site evaluation and species selection prior to replanting
- Select southern coastal trees for greater wind resistance
- Consider removing species of trees that have lower wind resistance
- Dead trees and/or sick trees should be removed



General Hurricane Fact Sheet cont'd

- After a hurricane, contact your local forester for assistance in assessing hurricane-damaged trees and decide an action plan to restore or remove trees
- The Forest Land Recovery Program assists landowners (10 acres or more) with damages resulting from hurricane season
- DOF foresters provide specific recommendations to landowners for managing hurricane-damaged property

General Facts

- Survivability of trees depend on: tree species, age, health and structure; environmental conditions during hurricane; site characteristics; and forest conditions
- Storm damaged trees are prime targets for a host of destructive insects and diseases.
- A combination of precipitation and wind speed during a hurricane affects a trees chance of survival
- Six things can happen to a tree in a hurricane:
 - Uproots- Tree becomes uprooted
 - Leans- Tree leans
 - Branches break- Tree loses large or small branches
 - Main stem breaks- Main stem of tree breaks
 - Leaf loss- Tree loses some or all leaves
 - No visible effects
- Trees that become uprooted should be removed
- Tree that lean should be reviewed by a professional or removed
- Trees with broken branches may be repaired
- Trees with main stem breaks should be removed
- Trees with leaf loss are very likely to be repaired
- Native trees survive better than exotic trees during a hurricane
- Older trees are more likely to fail in hurricanes than younger trees
- Unhealthy trees are highly vulnerable to hurricane damage
- Seek professional help when planting a tree as proper planting is a science
- County foresters can evaluate tree health

General Hurricane Fact Sheet cont'd

- Sound land management contributes to a healthy forest

Financial Impact

- The 2004 hurricanes damaged 10 million acres of forest; two million were severely damaged.
- Damaged timber may become more difficult to sell and profit may decrease. Because of the reduced quality in the timber, total profit is reduced by the damage.
- Landowners should document damages to land and property following a hurricane using photographs, videos, etc. (timber losses from natural disaster may be claimed in taxes as a casualty loss if none of the timber is harvested)
- Four recent hurricanes, Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne greatly impacted Florida's Agribusiness; total cost in timber damage statewide nearly reached 400 million dollars
- The hurricanes affected 6,094,037 of private non-industrial forestland and claimed nearly \$234 million as a result of damages to timber in private non- industrial forestland
- Forest products account for Florida's largest agriculture-based industry, contributing over \$16 billion and 137,000 jobs to the state's economy annually