



CITY OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

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For Immediate Release

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CRITICAL STORM BRANCH REMOVAL EFFORT UNDERWAY

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — *July 3, 2008* — City of Ann Arbor field operations crews have been working throughout the night to remove hazardous large storm-damaged trees in critical rights-of-way locations, such as tree limbs blocking roads and driveways, caught in wires, or posing other safety concerns. Tree-clearing efforts will continue into the holiday weekend, as needed, to ensure all critical tree limbs have been cleared. A phone line at (734) 994-2768 to handle reports of hazardous tree conditions on public property is being staffed today until 7 p.m. and on Friday, July 4th, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Starting Monday, July 7, city forestry crews will return to neighborhoods to address less critical street tree storm-related issues. Weather permitting, the forestry crews will be working on public street tree large branch removal in the same neighborhoods as the compost collection crews, who will be picking up properly-prepared private property branches.

Residents must prepare storm-damaged tree branches from their private property for municipal pickup as part of their normal weekly compost collection service. Branches up to six inches in diameter, and four feet long, may be placed in city-authorized compost carts, stuffed into paper yard waste bags, or tied with twine into bundles up to 18 inches in diameter. Each bag or bundle may weigh up to 50 pounds. Compostables must be placed at the curb before 7 a.m. for pickup on weekly solid waste collection days.

According to the city's Emergency Management Office, by 11 p.m. Friday night, wind gusts up to 58 miles per hour contributed to more than 50 downed trees, 45 downed wires, and affected 14 traffic signals. ###