

INFORMATIONAL BRIEF

v. 07132011

July 12, 2011

Upper Hill
Neighborhood
Springfield, MA



Tornado Damage Calculation Estimated Cost of Hazard Remediation of Trees, Vegetation Debris and Stumps on Private Property

On June 1, 2011 a series of three tornadoes ripped through Western Massachusetts, and included the second strongest tornado ever recorded in Massachusetts, with wind speeds estimated at 136 to 165 mph, according to the National Weather Service. The most severe tornado was the EF-3, on the Enhanced Fujita Damage Classification Scale, that carved a half-mile-wide path for 39 miles from Westfield to Charlton, killing three people and injuring over 200. In Springfield, the tornadoes impacted city's Metro-Center, South End, Six Corners, Upper Hill, Old Hill, East Forest Park and Sixteen Acres neighborhoods.

A sample survey was conducted on July 11, 2011 to establish the approximate cost of hazard remediation of trees, vegetative debris and stumps on private property parcels within the tornado impact zone. This included privately owned parcels, and did not include city-owned, industrial, commercial or other public parcels. A preliminary estimate of costs associated with the remediation of hazard trees and risks associated with vegetation on residential private property follows here:

- 4,786 private parcels are included in the impact zone;
- 1,225 acres of private property are contained in the tornado affected area;
- Cost per acre to mitigate hazard trees and vegetation is \$1,330;
- Cost per private parcel for mitigation is approximately is \$340;
- Approximately 1,620 trees need removal or hazard pruning, including hanger mitigation;
- It is estimated that over 1,200 stumps are eligible for hazard mitigation;
- Total cost to mitigate hazard trees and risk vegetation on private parcels is \$1,628,982

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