



Below are a variety of resources that may be of help to owners of forested land affected by the late March ice storm. Please read through the information provided carefully as it will likely answer some of your questions.

Before cutting and removing broken and downed trees yourself, or hiring someone, please read the information below.

First, find out if you qualify for the Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP)

Administered by the Farm Service Agency, or FSA, this program provides payments to eligible forest landowners to carry out emergency measures to restore land damaged by a natural disaster.

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/tools/informational/fact-sheets/emergency-forest-restoration-program-efrp>

Second, be sure you AND your hired tree service know how properly prune the tree.

Broken limbs can provide a path for rot and disease to enter the tree and should be pruned, or cut off, if possible. A proper pruning cut is done using the three-cut method and should result in the face cut being flush with the branch collar. Remember, how your trees are pruned today will create their future shape.

<https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/carringtonrec/archive/northern-hardy-fruit-evaluation-project/fruit-project-results/basic-pruning-cuts> -OR- <https://extension.psu.edu/pruning-landscape-trees>

Trees that lost the tops of their trunk or tips of their branches may require a reduction cut, which is a pruning cut that reduces the trunk or branch back to the nearest limb. Please visit the site below to learn more about reduction cuts; and insist any tree trimming company you hire also follow these directions.

<https://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/stem-reduction.shtml>

It is not necessary to use paint or a pruning sealer on a wound, trees will seal off the exposed tissue from within. The exception is oak trees; always paint fresh wounds to oak trees during the growing season to prevent the risk of oak wilt.

Find a Certified Arborist

Using a certified arborist to remediate damage in yard trees is recommended; use the link below to locate a certified arborist in your area.

https://www.asm-isa.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=883139&module_id=274045

State of Michigan Ice Storm Information webpage

Includes resources for residents. Public debris disposal sites, damage assessment self-reporting tool, opportunities for volunteering and donations.

<https://www.michigan.gov/msp/divisions/emhsd/2025-northern-michigan-ice-storm>

Michigan DNR Storm Recovery webpage

Includes ice related closures of DNR public land, trails, and facilities as well as fuelwood permits and volunteer information for trails and state parks.

<https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/about/newsroom/storm-recovery>

Forestry Assistance

Note these foresters are extremely busy with disaster response. Thank you for your patience.

Presque Isle and Cheboygan Counties – Jacob Grochowski. Jacob.grochowski@macd.org. 989-734-5202.

Montmorency and Alpena Counties – Dr. Greg Corace. Greg.corace@macd.org. 989-356-3596 x102.