

Tree Hazards



Tree Down On The Road? What Do I Do?

This last storm is a good reminder that trees do fall on our roads and highways. Here are a few reminders to keep you safe:

1. If the tree is blocking a lane or the entire highway, call 9-1-1. The dispatchers will forward the information to the appropriate agency (most likely Timber Cove Fire).
2. 9-1-1 will work from your cell phone even if you do not have service.
3. The down tree may not be the only hazard — if a power line is involved, then this is truly an emergency. Do not approach the tree. The line must be shut down by PG&E and it is NOT SAFE.
4. You may not be notified that there is a hazard ahead — especially if you are first. Drive with caution in windy and/or wet conditions. If you come upon a tree down and traffic is stopped, make sure you turn on your hazard lights in your vehicle. This warns the people coming up behind you. If you don't see the reflective dots, then a down tree may be covering them. SLOW DOWN. Down trees tend to absorb your light and cause confusion. Drive defensively.
5. For those that carry chainsaws, we do not cut the trees into smaller sizes anymore, but take the tree and move to the side as a unit. (This allows us to clear the highway much more quickly, for your convenience and to free up units for other eventualities.) It is not helpful to have the tree limbed when we arrive. Limbing just takes more time to clear the tree.
6. If the tree has fallen in a heavily forested area, turn around, park and wait where it is not forested. Notice how many fallen trees have already been cut in the heavily forested zones (Salt Point). Your vehicle may not protect you from the tree that is about to fall next.