

San Jose Arborists Offer Pre-Storm Tree Risk Assessments This Winter

Local tree service urges South Bay homeowners to schedule assessments before winter storms test aging urban canopy.

SAN JOSE, CA, UNITED STATES, September 11, 2026 / EINPresswire.com/ -- San Jose Tree Service, Inc., operating locally as San Jose Tree Service & Landscaping, is encouraging homeowners across San Jose and the South Bay to schedule [tree risk assessments](#) ahead of the coming winter storm season. The arborist-led company, which has served the region since 2013, is offering the assessments as a proactive step for property owners concerned about aging trees, storm exposure, and potential damage from high winds and saturated soil.



San Jose Tree Service, Inc.

The initiative comes as forecasters point to an active storm pattern for the region this winter, raising questions among homeowners about whether trees on their property are prepared to withstand strong wind and rain. Communities throughout the South Bay, including San Jose, Los

Gatos, Saratoga, and Campbell, are home to some of the most established urban tree canopy in Silicon Valley, with many oaks, redwoods, and other mature species that have grown on residential properties for decades.

“

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That mature canopy is part of what gives neighborhoods such as Willow Glen and Almaden Valley their character, but large, long-established trees also carry significant wind

load during a storm. Industry observation has shown that trees which fail during winter weather

typically had a warning sign deadwood, a weak branch union, or a compromised root zone that existed before the storm arrived and could have been identified with an earlier evaluation.

A [tree risk assessment](#) involves a licensed arborist walking a property to evaluate each tree's structure, root zone, canopy condition, and proximity to structures such as homes, garages, and driveways. The assessment identifies which trees may need attention before storm season and which are already in stable condition. Common findings that prompt further action include deadwood in the canopy, branches extending over rooflines, uneven or heavy limb growth, co-dominant stems without support, and trunks that have shifted or begun to lean.

Once an assessment is complete, several types of preventive work may be recommended depending on a tree's condition. [Structural pruning](#) and crown reduction are commonly used to reduce a tree's wind load by selectively removing branches that create excess surface area for wind to catch, without stripping the canopy or altering the tree's long-term structure. Deadwood removal addresses one of the most common sources of storm-related damage, since dead branches do not flex with wind the way living branches do. For trees with structural weaknesses such as a split trunk or a heavy lateral limb, cabling and bracing can provide additional support without requiring removal.

The assessment process also considers a property's broader landscape, since a tree's exposure to wind can change over time based on surrounding conditions. A tree that has been sheltered by a neighboring canopy for years may become more exposed following a nearby removal or construction project, which can shift its risk profile even if the tree itself has not changed.

"If you're feeling uncertain about a tree on your property, it's almost never wrong to ask questions," said Robert Apolinar, Board-Certified Master Arborist and owner of San Jose Tree Service, Inc. "The goal is safety, health, and longevity. Most trees can be preserved with the right care, and removal is always the last option we recommend, not the first."

Industry data across the broader tree care sector has shown that preventive work, such as a single structural pruning or a round of deadwood removal, is generally far less costly than emergency storm damage response after a limb or tree has already failed. Scheduling an assessment well before the first major rainfall also tends to be more practical for homeowners, since tree care providers across the region typically see a sharp increase in demand once storms are already in the forecast, which can limit availability for both assessments and follow-up work.

Homeowners are not required to have every tree treated following an assessment. A healthy, well-structured tree without deadwood or other visible risk indicators may require no additional work, and the evaluation itself is intended to help property owners understand which trees fall into that category. In cases where a tree is found to be dead, structurally compromised beyond what pruning or bracing can address, or a direct safety concern, removal may be discussed as an option, though it remains the least common recommendation among the outcomes of a typical

assessment.

Tree work in San Jose is also subject to local regulation depending on a tree's species, size, and location, particularly for trees designated as heritage or street trees under city ordinance. Permit guidance is generally included as part of a standard consultation so homeowners understand what documentation, if any, is required before pruning or removal work begins.

Species-specific factors also play a role in how a tree is evaluated and treated ahead of storm season. Common South Bay species such as oaks, sycamores, redwoods, and eucalyptus respond differently to wind exposure and to saturated soil conditions following heavy rain, which is one reason a uniform approach to pruning or risk assessment across an entire neighborhood is generally not recommended. An arborist's evaluation typically accounts for a tree's species, age, growth pattern, and site conditions when determining what, if any, follow-up work is appropriate.

San Jose Tree Service, Inc. holds a dual California Contractors State License Board license covering both tree service and landscaping work, and has maintained Better Business Bureau accreditation since 2013. The company's services extend beyond individual tree assessments to include broader landscape considerations, reflecting an approach in which tree health and surrounding landscape conditions are evaluated together rather than in isolation.

The company is currently scheduling pre-storm assessments for properties throughout San Jose, Los Gatos, Saratoga, Campbell, Cupertino, Santa Clara, Monte Sereno, and surrounding South Bay communities. Homeowners with an active tree emergency, such as a downed limb or a tree that has already fallen, are advised to avoid the area, particularly near power lines, and to avoid attempting to move or cut the tree themselves.

For more information or to schedule a tree risk assessment, visit sanjosetreemaintenance.com or call (408) 422-1313.

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San Jose Tree Service, Inc., operating as San Jose Tree Service & Landscaping, is an arborist-led, BBB-accredited company providing tree risk assessment, structural pruning, cabling and bracing, and landscape services to San Jose, Los Gatos, Saratoga, Campbell, and the greater South Bay since 2013.

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