



March 21, 2013

To: National Urban & Community Forestry Advisory Council  
USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region  
State Urban Forestry Coordinators  
National Association of State Foresters  
Professional Associations - ISA, SMA, UAA  
Other interested parties

### Urban Forestry Emergency Operations Planning Guide for Storm Response

We are pleased to present a link to the *Urban Forestry Emergency Operations Planning Guide for Storm Response* document which can be found at the [www.smarttreespacific.org](http://www.smarttreespacific.org) website. Click on the Urban Forestry EOP Guide button. The project was funded by the US Forest Service National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (NUCFAC) and the Pacific Southwest Region Five. The Guide was developed by the Friends of Hawaii's Urban Forest and supported by national partners and individuals interested in improving preparedness for storms in the urban forest.

The project was driven by a growing awareness of the devastation that happens to the urban forest after a natural disaster such as a hurricane, ice storm or wind event. We asked ourselves - how can the urban forestry industry be better equipped to respond to natural disasters? The solution was this guide. With 91% of Americans living in places at a moderate-to-high risk of earthquakes, volcanoes, tornadoes, wildfires, hurricanes, flooding, or high-wind damage, it's time to act.

The website contains two sections:

1. Section 1: **The Guide**. This user-friendly guide provides urban forestry professionals concrete approaches when preparing for natural disasters that impact the urban forest. The sections contain useful information, recommendations from industry partners, and procedures and covers: *Planning, Safety, Communications, Contracts, Incident Command System, Inventory, Mutual Aid Agreements, Training, Vegetative Debris, and Vulnerability*.

Preparedness saves  
more lives than  
responders.

- Amanda Ripley, *The Unthinkable*

2. **Section 2: The Process.** This section describes the process used to develop the guide and includes *survey results, interview recommendations, expert review recommendations, our conclusions and next steps.* Three hundred and sixty seven certified arborists, utility arborists, certified municipal arborist, emergency managers and certified tree workers participated in the survey and provided immeasurable feedback. Seventy interviews were completed with the responders from a variety of industries, including municipal, utility, and private organizations, and small and large cities.

Friends of Hawaii's Urban Forest, along with our partners and advisors believe that this guide will be useful in planning and preparing your community's response to storms. We believe that a well thought out and tested storm preparedness protocol is essential in this era of increasing storms across the urban forest.

We ask that you review the guide at the website and assist us with the distribution of the guide by forwarding the link to your partners and organizations that may be interested in developing a program to prepare for storms.

If you have any questions about the guide or would like to talk about setting up a program please contact me at 808-220-0966 or by email at [ttm@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:ttm@hawaii.rr.com).

Sincerely,



**Teresa Trueman-Madriaga**  
Project Team Leader

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*The Friends of Hawaii's Urban Forest is an equal opportunity service provided.*

