

# Storm Debris Removal



## ~~~~~What Can I Expect?~~~~~

Downed trees and other debris remain a serious public safety issue, and clearing and removing disaster debris is a major part of the recovery effort from the May 29 storms in Calhoun County. For more information please call 2-1-1 and visit the Calhoun County website at [www.calhouncountymi.gov](http://www.calhouncountymi.gov) --you'll find a "storm damage information" box at the bottom of the home page.

### Who is responsible for removing debris from my property?

Homeowners and business owners are responsible for debris removal from their property.

### Who will pay for it?

You should consult with your insurance company to determine whether you have coverage of debris removal.

### How can I find a tree removal service?

Neither the County nor the City of Battle Creek is contracting with private tree removal companies. You should require proof of a valid license and insurance before hiring contractors, and require them to remove trees from your property instead of just cutting them down and leaving them for removal by others. One suggestion is to search the Better Business Bureau at <http://westernmichiganbbb.org> to help find tree removal contractors.

### What if I can't afford tree removal or my property is uninsured?

If you need assistance with removing debris from your property or if your property is uninsured, please call 2-1-1 or visit [www.uwmich.org/2-1-1/2-1-1-call-centers](http://www.uwmich.org/2-1-1/2-1-1-call-centers), which is a free referral service provided in Calhoun County by HandsOn Battle Creek and supported by United Way.

### What should I do with my debris?

Neatly stack your tree debris in front of the sidewalk or next to the curb if there is no sidewalk. To prevent any potential safety hazards, please avoid placing any debris in roadways and on sidewalks. Construction debris and other household items should not be mixed with tree debris. Please contact 2-1-1 for recommendations on how to dispose of construction debris.

### What is the local government's role in this—when will they help?

The Calhoun County Road Commission and Battle Creek Department of Public Works, along with multiple State agencies, have been actively working throughout Calhoun County to clear debris from blocked roadways causing safety hazards following the storms on May 29.

In the next several weeks, they will also continue to pick up debris from curbsides throughout the county. Because responders are still in the emergency phase, a neighborhood by neighborhood debris collection schedule is not available yet.

### Where should I take my debris if I don't want to wait?

You can haul your tree debris for disposal to the City's composting facility at Brice Pit on River Road from 7:30 am to 6:00 pm daily. In addition, the Community Compost Center located at 19646 Division Drive (just outside of the City of Marshall) is open 24 hours a day and will take trees and other yard waste. For more information about the Community Compost Center, please call 269-781-9841, extension 241 or visit the website at <http://calhouncountyrecycling.com/composting/>.

### Can I burn my debris piles?

Unless you have the proper permits, burning is not an acceptable means of yard debris disposal due to the extreme public safety risks it causes. To obtain the proper permit, please call 269.966.3348 in Battle Creek, or your local fire department elsewhere.