

CHAPTER

1

CLEANING UP AFTER A HURRICANE: SAFETY COMES FIRST!



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I. General Safety Tips

Do not work alone

Cleanup is dangerous. Always work with a partner.

Assemble a well-stocked first-aid kit

Learn how to use it and keep it nearby.

Avoid overexertion

Overexertion is the most common cause for injury. Avoid lifting over 50 pounds. Remember to lift with the legs and not the back.



Homeowner: stay safe!

Homeowners are seriously injured trying to do their own tree work. It is always a good idea to consult a professional before undertaking any major restoration or removal. Professional tree workers are required by law to wear personal protective equipment: hard hat, gloves, goggles, chaps, and appropriate footwear (see the *Personal Protective Equipment* section). If you decide to do some of the cleanup yourself, remember to follow these guidelines:

- Do not use a chain saw if you are not experienced in operating it or if you are not physically fit.
- If you *must* use a chain saw, work only on the ground.
- Never do any tree work that involves felling trees, climbing of any kind, or using ropes. Get a professional to help you with these situations.

Figure 1

Homeowners can clear debris to help professionals perform their specialized work.