



# News Release

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ... (FEB. 2, 2009)**

### **AFC URGES RESIDENTS TO USE CAUTION WHEN CLEARING DEBRIS**

The Arkansas Forestry Commission urges residents to use extreme caution when clearing tree debris from the recent ice storm. Large broken or hanging limbs are dangerous hazards, and homeowners are urged to contact a professional arborist for post-storm cleanup.

“It may be tempting to get out and start cleaning up the mess yourself,” said Patti Erwin, Urban Forestry Coordinator. “But the combination of heavy tree limbs and downed power lines can be very dangerous. Their removal should be left to the professionals.”

Professional Arborists have the equipment and know-how to safely remove broken or downed limbs and to help save and repair trees. The AFC recommends hiring a certified arborist with proof of insurance, and warns homeowners to beware of drive-by tree services.

For more information on finding a certified arborist, ice storm cleanup and tree health, visit the Arkansas Forestry Commission web site at [www.arkansasforestry.org](http://www.arkansasforestry.org).

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