

**Strain: Hire only licensed arborists
to work on storm-damaged trees**

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**Baton Rouge, La. - Once wind and rain die down from
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**Hurricane Isaac the cleanup begins, and Louisiana Department of Agriculture and
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**Forestry (LDAF) Commissioner Mike Strain, D.V.M., is reminding residents to hire
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**only professional-licensed arborists to perform work on storm-damaged trees.</p>
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**<p>"Anyone doing tree work in Louisiana is required to obtain a license through
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the LDAF," Strain said. "Hiring only licensed-professional arborists

**protects
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**you, the homeowner, since licensed arborists are not only trained to properly
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**execute tree work, but they must also maintain liability insurance. I also urge
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**you to get a written estimate and, while you may be required to pay a reasonable
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**deposit, you should never pay for the job in full up front."</p>
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**<p>"Following hurricanes, we see an increased number of people going
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door-to-door offering tree services," Strain said. "When hiring an arborist

**to
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**remove storm-damaged trees, always ask to see their license and a current copy
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**of the arborist's liability insurance certificate."</p>
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**<p>According to the Louisiana horticulture law: No person shall receive fees,
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**advertise or solicit business in a regulated profession or occupation unless
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**this person holds the appropriate license or permit, or has a regular employee
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**who holds the appropriate license or permit, or is employed by a person who
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**holds the appropriate license or permit. In addition, all licensees are required
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**to place their license numbers on all business-related vehicles that have
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**advertisements on them.</p>
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**<p>No license is required for persons doing tree debris removal, which includes
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