

Protecting your Home from Wind – Trees and Windborne Missiles

Introduction

Severe storm and tropical cyclone protection of your home* can involve a variety of changes to your house and property - changes that can vary in complexity and cost. You may be able to make some types of changes yourself, however complicated or structural changes should only be carried out by a licensed person.

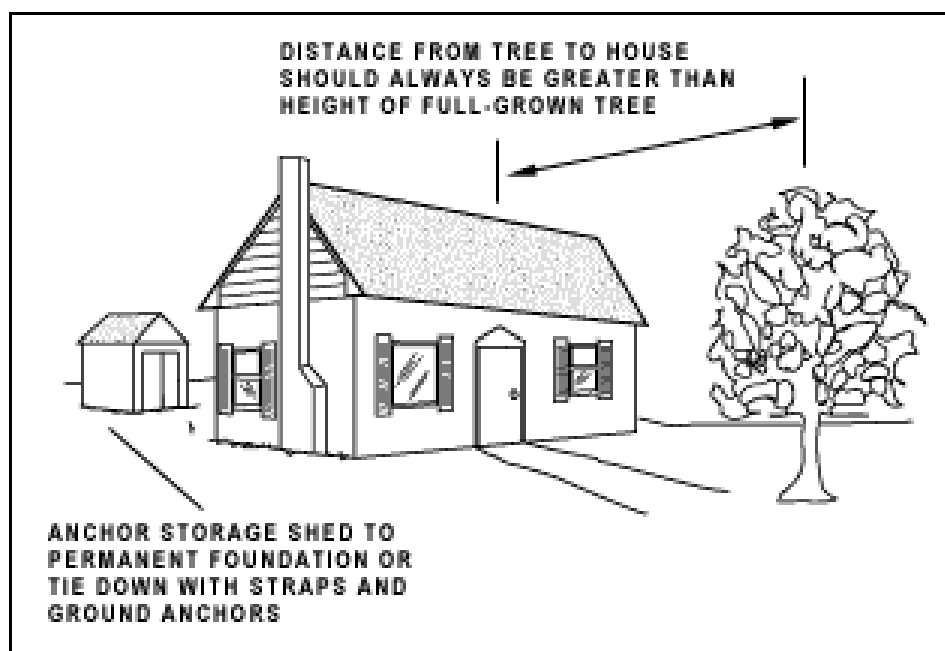
Public health significance

The removal of material that may potentially damage your home, or the homes of others, will reduce the severity of storm and cyclone damage and its resultant cost to the community.

Action to take

➤ Remove Trees and Potential Windborne Missiles

If the area immediately surrounding your house contains trees, sheds, garbage bins, yard debris, or other materials that can be moved by the wind, your house will be more likely to be damaged during a severe storm or tropical cyclone. The wind can topple trees onto your house and can pick up smaller objects and drive them through windows and glass doors.



➤ Trees

You should ensure that all trees are far enough away from your house that they can't fall on it. The distance between your house and any nearby tree should always be greater than the height the tree will reach when it is fully grown.

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➤ Storage Sheds and Other Objects

All storage sheds should be securely anchored, either to a permanent foundation or with straps and ground anchors. Smaller objects, such as trash cans, barbecue grills, and outdoor furniture should also be anchored or, if you have adequate warning, moved indoors. You should also clear away any debris, such as fallen tree branches.

Points to Remember

Keep these points in mind when you remove trees and potential wind-borne missiles from around your house:

- Removing large trees near your house can be extremely dangerous, for both you and your house, and therefore is a job for a skilled contractor.
- The straps and ground anchors used for manufactured homes can also be used to anchor storage shed, especially small garden sheds, which are usually not placed on a permanent foundation.
- You can secure outdoor furniture and barbecues by bolting them to decks or patios or by attaching them to ground anchors with cables or chains.
- You can secure garbage bins with cables or chains attached to ground anchors or to wood posts firmly embedded in the ground.

**Refer to information on how to "Prepare for cyclone, storm, flood and tsunami now!" at the Emergency Management Queensland website (see "Related Links" below).*

Acknowledgement:

Information for this document was sourced from the Federal Emergency Management Authority (USA) website – www.fema.gov

Related links:

- Emergency Management Queensland (EMQ) at website: www.emergency.qld.gov.au/emq/css/beprepared.asp
- Emergency Management Australia Community Awareness Publications at website: www.ema.gov.au/www/emaweb/emaweb.nsf/Page/Publications
- Workplace Health & Safety Queensland at website: www.deir.qld.gov.au/