

NYC Parks Mobilizes to Address Tree Damage

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On top of the many challenges that have marked 2020 so far, we are now also in storm season. While Isaias struck as a tropical storm and not a hurricane, it packed a punch, causing extensive power loss and leading to over 21,000 tree damage service calls in the city.

In 2010, after some sudden tornadoes occurred, the NYC Office of Emergency Management (OEM) led the development of the Downed Trees Task Force, along with NYC Parks, DSNY, FDNY, NYPD, and other agencies. The task force works to coordinate the response to tree damage and power line issues citywide.

Among City agencies, Parks is doing the heavy lifting in responding to Isaias and tree damage. Parks has over 600 staff responding to tree damage including foresters, operations and maintenance staff, heavy-duty equipment operators, park enforcement patrol, and inspectors.



Parks operates over 160 specialized forestry units including bucket trucks, log loaders, chipper dump trucks, and portable chippers. At Cunningham Park, Parks also operates a large tub chipper and support front end loaders for mulching heavy log debris citywide from the storms. Forestry and park inspectors support the operation, monitoring street conditions in their fleet of all-electric vehicles.

Parks' mechanics have particular expertise in forestry equipment, including support equipment like chainsaws, fuel trucks, and generators, and have the challenge of keeping Parks' forestry

crews on the road through long shifts, seven days a week. Parks' garages have kept low out of service during this difficult response period.

Thanks to Parks, OEM, and all the agencies responding to one of the largest tree damage events in City history.



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