

WOODLAND OWNERS' Information Bulletin

Hurricane Juan's damage is easy to see within woodlots and on the roads. Now that you have had some time to clean up your homestead, maybe you're thinking it's time to get out and do some work on your woodland.

Before you set out with your chainsaw in hand, Nova Forest Alliance would like to share, in this special bulletin, a few items we hope will help you tackle the trees in your woodland.



Need Safety Advice?

Recreational users & woodland owners beware

Hurricane Juan has left many trees blown down and overlapping one another in central NS Forests, but blowdowns can occur anywhere, at any time of year. To safely harvest overlapping blowdown trees, or trees that have been uprooted, a qualified contractor is your best bet.

If you decide to tackle a smaller job yourself or spend time in the forest as a recreational user, here are some important safety considerations, courtesy of Patricia Amero, Picea Forestry Consulting:

- Watch for broken off branches and broken tree tops resting in trees. These are overhead hazards for anyone venturing into the woods.
- As trees fall over, their uprooted "root mats" may leave pitfalls behind. These will be particularly dangerous and hard to spot as snow begins to fall.
- Use extreme caution travelling over or through a mass of windfalls, in case they should shift suddenly.
- After tree trunks are cut from their exposed root

mats the stumps will fall back into place very quickly. As they fall, forest workers should beware and stand well clear.

- If trees are tangled together, it may be impossible to tell which way trees will begin to fall if one tree in such a "tangled mess" is cut free. Remember, it may be hard to run from falling trees in a forest already tangled and blocked in every direction.
- Finally, a forest visitor should never work or play alone, and workers should wear all protective gear – including hard hat, safety boots, safety glasses/visor, chainsaw pants or chaps, gloves, ear protection, etc.

Need a Contractor?

For information on finding a contractor in Nova Scotia, or contractors' codes of practice, contact:

Tom Harper, Manager,
Forest Safety Society of Nova Scotia
895-1107 or fssns@fss.ns.ca
<http://www.fss.ns.ca/about.htm>