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NEWS RELEASE

July 13, 2017 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Additional Assistance Offered for Storm Damage Cleanup

DUBUQUE, Iowa -- The City of Dubuque continues to respond to tree damage caused by the July 11-12 storm. In addition to extensive damage to City-owned trees and property, the extent of damage to private trees and property has led to a more flexible approach in the City's plans to collect tree/yard debris free of charge from Dubuque residents. A team of volunteers will also be available to assist elderly, disabled, and other residents who need assistance in clearing their property of storm debris.

There will be free collection of storm-related tree and yard debris conducted Thursday, July 13, through Friday, July 21, on the customers' normal collection. The City prefers that residents who are able follow the City's regular requirements for setting out yard debris at the curb or alley line in containers or tied bundles:

- All yard waste must be set out by 6:00 a.m. and must not weigh over 40 pounds per container or bundle.
- Materials must be in paper yard waste bags, rigid containers not exceeding 35 gallons capacity, or tied in bundles that do not exceed five feet in length or 40 pounds in weight.
- The tied bundles of sticks, branches and limbs must not exceed 18" inches in diameter.

However, the number of impacted properties indicates that those requirements may be too burdensome for some residents to meet. In these cases, the City will collect all storm-related tree and yard debris that is placed between the curb and sidewalk for collection. While this might not be on your regular collection day, it will be collected by the City over the next week. If not picked up by Thursday, July 20, call the public works department at 563-589-4250. City staff cannot enter private property to collect materials.

Residents who need assistance getting storm-related tree/yard debris off their property should call United Way 2-1-1 or call toll-free at 1-866-469-2211 Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 10 p.m., and 8 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. on Saturdays. Calls will be answered by the United Way of East Central Iowa staff who will record basic information about the caller's needs and initiate a response with a volunteer team from United Methodist Church Iowa Conference Disaster Services and other volunteer groups if the needs arise.

The volunteers are trained and background-checked “chain saw responders” and will cut and remove downed or damaged trees and other yard debris related to the July 11-12 storm. The cut wood and branches will be moved to the right-of-way when possible (between curb and sidewalk) and the City of Dubuque Public Works Department will remove the storm debris from the curb at no cost to the resident or property owner.

To request this assistance, please call United Way 2-1-1 or toll-free at 1-866-469-2211 as soon as possible.

Residents with household items damaged due to the storm should contact the public works department at 563-589-4250 to make arrangements for collection.

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