

# Watt's News

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## Branches are Falling, Tree Failure is Unpredictable. Help Your Trees Before the Storm Hits.

Inspecting your trees is your responsibility every year. Usually it is done during the fall raking season because all of the branches are exposed for your eyesight. Inspect trees carefully and systematically.

### Consider the following factors when inspecting trees:

**Tree conditions:** Trees in poor condition may have many dead twigs, dead branches, or small, off-color leaves. Trees in good condition will have full crowns, vigorous branches, and healthy, full-sized leaves; however, green foliage in the crown does not insure that a tree is safe. Tree trunks and branches can be quite defective and still support a lush green crown.

**Tree species:** Some tree species of Maple and Ash often form weak branch unions and Aspen is prone to breakage at a young age due to variety of factors, including decay, cankers, and root problems.

**Tree age and size:** Pay particular attention to older trees which may have multiple defects and extensive decay.

### Visible signs of hazard trees:

We recognize seven main types of tree defects: dead wood, cracks, weak branch unions, decay, canker, root problems, and poor tree architecture. A tree with defects is not hazardous, however, if some portion of it is within striking distance of an object, person, place or thing, it can be.

**Dead wood** is "not negotiable". Trees and large dead branches must be removed immediately!

### You must take immediate action if:

- A broken branch or top is lodged in a tree.
- A tree is dead or a branch is dead and of sufficient size to cause injury.

**Cracks** are deep splits through the bark, extending into the wood of the tree.

### You must take action if:

- A crack extends deeply into, or completely through the stem.
- Two or more cracks occur in the same general area of the stem.
- A crack is in contact with another defect.

**Weak branch unions** are places where branches are not strongly attached to the tree. Trees with a tendency to

form upright branches, such as Elm and Maple, often produce weak branch unions.

### You must take action if:

- A weak branch union occurs on the main stem.
- A weak branch union is cracked or is associated with a crack, cavity, or other defect.

**Decaying trees** can be prone to failure, but the presence of decay, by itself, does not indicate that the tree is hazardous. Advanced decay, wood that is soft, punky or crumbly, or a cavity where the wood is missing can create a serious hazard. Evidence of fungal activity growing on root flares, stems, or branches are indicators of advanced decay. A tree usually decays from the inside out, but sound wood is also added to the outside of a tree as it grows and decays. Evaluating the safety of a decaying tree is usually best left to trained foresters.

### You must take action if:

- Advanced decay is associated with cracks, weak branch unions or other defects.
- A branch of sufficient size to cause injury is decayed.

**Root problems** cause trees to blow over in windstorms. Because most defective roots are underground and out of sight, above ground symptoms may serve as the best warning.

### You must take action if:

- A tree is leaning with recent root exposure, soil movement, or soil mounding near the base of the tree.
- More than half of the roots under the tree's crown have been cut or crushed. These trees are dangerous because they do not have adequate structural support from the root system.
- Advanced decay is present in the tree root flares or buttress roots.

### Multiple defects:

The recognition of multiple defects in a tree is critical when evaluating the tree's potential to fail. Multiple defects that are touching or are close to one another should be closely examined.

(Continued from front page) Branches are falling...

**Take corrective action by:**

- **Removing the target** and then correcting the problem. Easily moved items like play sets, RV's and picnic tables can be placed out of reach from the tree. If the target cannot be moved and a serious hazard exists, consider properly eliminating the tree.
- **Prune the tree** by taking off dead branches, cracked or decayed branches, weak branch unions, and always remove branches that are lodged in the crown of the tree.
- **Removing the tree** is the final option when the other two corrective actions will not work. Tree removal is inherently dangerous and is even more serious when homes and other targets are involved. Find a professional to cut it down.

For more information: [www.brainerdparks.com](http://www.brainerdparks.com) click on forestry.



**Watt's Weather**

**Total Precipitation**

July 2006 1.24"  
July 2005 2.13"

**Average Temperatures**

July 2006 Hi 88 Lo 61  
July 2005 Hi 85 Lo 58

**Sudoku Puzzle**

6								3
		5	9		8		4	
	1			6		9		
	8				5		3	
9				3		2		7
		1	4					
				2		8		
5		4						
					3		1	

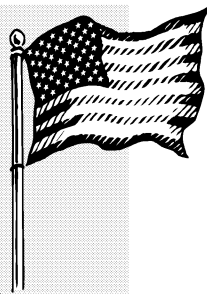
*"Because everything we say and do is the length and shadow of our own souls, our influence is determined by the quality of our being."*  
— Dale E. Turner

**BEFORE DIGGING:** Call Gopher State One Call at **1-800-252-1166** for water and electric locations. All requests for locations must be made by calling the above toll free number at least **48 hours** before digging begins.

**NOTICE:** All electrical work performed in the City of Brainerd requires a "Request for Electrical Inspection" form to be completed, filed, and work inspected by our inspector. If you need the form or have any questions, please contact Brainerd Public Utilities at **825-3210** or **829-2193**.

**You are invited!**

September 8, 2006  
11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  
Hot dog/Brat and Pop  
&  
Bake Sale!



Brainerd Police Office Parking Lot

*Fundraiser is to raise postage funds to send items to our troops overseas.*

**\$1.50-hot dog/pop**  
**\$2.00-brat/pop**  
**& bake sale items.**

**Sudoku Answer**

Fold page to hide answer.

2	5	3	4	7	9	6	8	1
9	7	8	1	4	2	5	3	6
4	6	2	9	8	3	7	1	5
8	9	6	2	7	4	1	5	3
7	5	1	3	8	6	4	9	2
1	3	4	5	9	2	8	7	6
5	2	9	7	6	3	8	4	1
6	4	7	8	1	5	9	3	2
3	8	4	1	5	2	7	9	6

**Office Hours 7:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.**

**Business: 829-8726**

**Repair/Service Operations: 829-2193**

**Emergency 24 hour service 365 days a year: 829-2193**

**Email@bpu.org OR www.bpu.org**