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Need help with storm-damaged trees?

Some storm-damaged branches can be pruned from the ground using a pole saw, but if you would need to be on a ladder to trim damaged limbs, then be safe and call a profession. FYI, even professionals rarely use a ladder when pruning because it's just not safe.

Things you need to know:

- If damaged tree limbs are within 10 feet of pole-to-pole power lines, they must be worked on by Xcel Energy.
- Some serious tree injury is not obvious from the ground. Play it safe to avoid future damage and have big trees checked out by an arborist.
- Scammers often show up in mass after serious landscape damage. Take the following steps to avoid being taken advantage of.

Check for arborist license. Some cities require an arborist license. Call your municipality.

Protect yourself: Get proof of insurance. Homeowners can be liable for a worker's injury if the company does not carry worker's compensation and for property damages if they don't carry general liability. These insurances are required under Colorado law. Reputable contractors document their coverage.

Check out the contractor: Ask for referrals, how long they have been in business and if they are a member of a professional trade association.

Get all estimates in writing including a detailed description of work that will be done.

Be wary of individuals who ask for all or a substantial portion of money up front.

Need a landscape professional? Go to www.camelotdesign.net.

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Tip of the Week reprinted courtesy of Associated Landscape Contractors of Colorado (ALCC) of which Camelot Design is a member. ALCC is the only professional organization for Colorado's landscape contracting industry statewide.

For more information, visit <http://www.camelotdesign.net>.
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