

Carlisle Barracks cleans up after storm

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Staff Sgt. Corey Baltos

June 1, 2011 - On the evening of May 26 a powerful storm rolled into Carlisle Barracks and caused some wind-related damage to the post. Clean-up efforts began almost immediately after the storm.



A portion of a tree in the yard of Quarters 4 fell during a storm that swept through Carlisle Barracks on May 26. Damage to the home was minimal. Photo by Jim MacNeil.

“Our first priority is to take care of any storm related injuries,” said Rick McBride, post safety officer. “Fortunately, while the storm knocked down trees, some of which came close to residences, there were no injuries on post.”

Once injuries have been assessed, the post has three other priorities.


“The first is making sure that the roadways open, so the flow of traffic isn’t impeded, second, repair any power lines or remove debris that might damage it, and last, make sure we maintain force protection,” said McBride.

Last week’s storm caused a branch to fall and block Delaney Road near the chapel, while another tree fell on one of the parameter fences. Both obstructions were removed later that evening, while the majority of the clean-up took place over the weekend.

“Our environmentalist is checking the trees that are still standing for structural damage and safety issues, and if she finds any we will remove those as well,” said Lt. Col. Janet Holliday, garrison commander.



Clean-up crews from Antietam Tree & Turf feeds branches into a wood shredder as part



of the post-wide clean-up of debris from the storm. *Photo by Staff Sgt. Corey Baltos.*

“We were really very lucky,” said McBride.

“We didn’t lose power, even though over 33,000 Cumberland County residents did.

There was minor damage to a couple of the homes near Garrison Lane.”

After the storm passed through Cumberland County the Carlisle Barracks Directorate of Public Works set to work cleaning up the debris. Two full tree-removal teams from Antietam tree removal have been on post working to remove the debris.

Fifteen trees were, or are in the process of being moved, because of damage from the storm.

“The trees are being removed because they cannot be saved or because the damage to them presents a possible hazard to people and property,” said Donna Swauger, the Environmental Protection Specialist for Carlisle Barracks. “The majority of the trees that are being removed are Norway Maples, which are a common urban tree.”

“Our DPW and our contractors did a superb job in clearing roads and making sure the post was passable immediately after the storm. They will continue their work to make sure the entire post is standing tall in time for the Class of 2011 graduation next week,” said Holliday.

“It needs to be understood that tree removal after a storm, takes time,” said Swauger.

In the event of severe weather, McBride recommends that people stay where they are, and pay attention to weather updates and alerts.

“We do try to notify people through the giant voice, email and phones,” said McBride. Updates to post operations and other important information are also posted on the information line at 245-3700.

If, after a storm, there is damage to your property there are several numbers you can call.

The Department of Public Works has a 24-hour help desk for emergencies to non-residences. The number is 245-4019.

If there is damage to a home Balfour Beatty can be reached at: 243-7177.

As always residents can call the Carlisle Barracks police help desk in the event of a non-personal

emergency at 245-4115.

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