

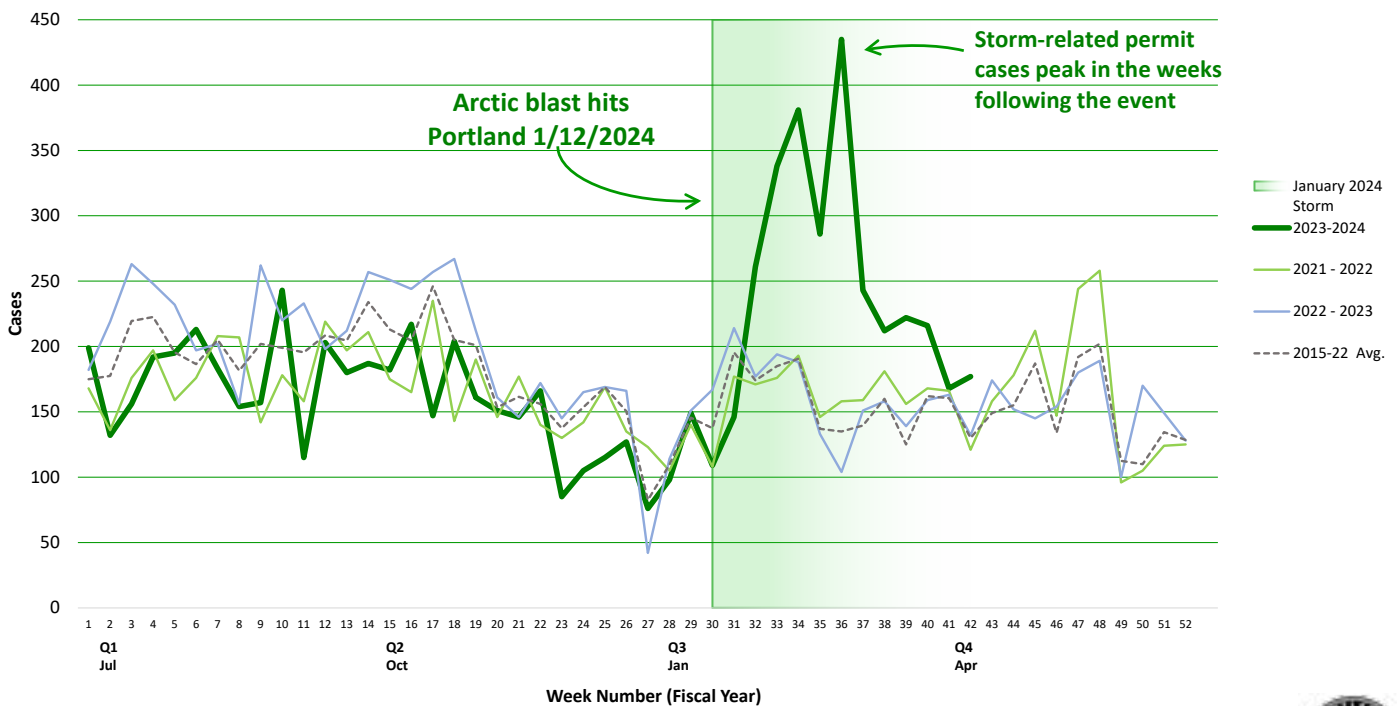


Urban Forestry Storm Response

- PP&R Urban Forestry is responsible for the management, preservation, and growth of Portland’s urban forest.
- Urban Forestry’s specialized staff respond to tree emergencies in public streets and on City-owned or managed properties 24/7. Portlanders can call 503.823.TREE (8733) to report a suspected tree emergency at any time of the day or night. Urban Forestry partners closely with PBOT, PP&R Land Stewardship, and PP&R Heavy Equipment, especially during high-volume events.
- During storms, Urban Forestry’s permitting team inspects impacted trees across Portland and issues permits for tree removal, pruning, and replanting of regulated trees. In certain emergency circumstances, the hazardous portion of a tree may be removed without first obtaining a permit, and this must be followed by getting a retroactive tree permit.

During the January 2024 snowstorm, Urban Forestry received 785 calls for tree emergencies. The current annual average number of incoming emergencies is just under 1,800. This means that **during a severe storm event, Urban Forestry may receive over 40% of the year’s total tree emergencies in the span of a few weeks.**

Urban Forestry Permitting and Regulation - New Cases by Week





Urban Forestry Storm Response



Severe storms, though disruptive, showcase the resiliency of urban trees. 785 tree emergencies show that only approximately 0.00127% of Portland's 1.4 million public trees became dangerous or impacted roads, right-of-way property, or city resources.



Even when tree emergencies surge during severe storms, tree failure is a very unlikely scenario for the average Portland resident.



Large, long-lived trees have adapted to survive a wide variety of weather conditions and have proven their resiliency over time.



Large trees are most effective in providing ecosystem services such as cleaner air, safer streets, and cooler temperatures.



Trees require expert care. Poor practices, even if well-intentioned, can lead to tree health decline, making trees of all sizes more likely to fail during a storm.



The best way to prevent tree failure is through regular care by an experienced arborist, especially before the storm season starts.



Trees that are dead, dying, or dangerous at the time of inspection are permitted for removal.

Tree and limb failures during extreme weather events can occur for varied reasons, including but not limited to:



Rare and Severe Stress Load from High Winds



Severed Roots



Improper Planting



Saturated Soils

Regulation, inspection, and permitting by Urban Forestry ensure that tree safety and health remain a priority in Portland, helping prevent tree emergencies.

Portland's tree canopy is in decline, making our large trees even more essential.

Urban Forestry's role as Portland's urban forest manager, combined with tree regulations such as Portland's Tree Code, allow Portland to maintain its beautiful urban forest and life-sustaining tree canopy.

