



New Jersey Board of Tree Experts
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News Release

For Immediate Release
April 19, 2017

NEW JERSEY BOARD OF TREE EXPERTS RULES ARE ADOPTED TO EFFECTUATE THE TREE EXPERTS AND TREE CARE OPERATORS LICENSING ACT

On April 17, 2017, the Tree Expert and Tree Care Operators Licensing Law's rules were adopted and promulgated on the New Jersey Register. This rule adoption permits the New Jersey Board of Tree Experts to fully implement the Act to reduce the number of fatalities and injuries in the tree care profession, and promote proper industry and tree care practices and standards while providing consumer protection against unscrupulous tree care.

Jackson - The Tree Experts and Tree Care Operators Licensing Act was passed on January 16, 2010 to address the serious injuries and fatalities in the arboricultural industry, an increase in unresolved local consumer affairs complaints against tree care companies arising from dishonest "fly-by-night" tree care operations, and the poor arboricultural practices that put tree owners and their properties at risk.

The New Jersey Department of Health's Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program statistics show there were ninety-nine fatalities between 1991 and 2016 in the New Jersey tree care industry. Additionally, between 2009 and 2013 there were approximately 270 reported non-fatal injuries in New Jersey to tree care workers and many more that went unreported. Six workers died during or in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy. Three of the six

were tree care company employees. These injuries and fatalities were due to improper work procedures, and non-compliance with approved safety standards and applicable OSHA safety regulations. Additionally, since the passage of the Act in 2010, and with the frequent occurrence of devastating storms across the State, consumer complaints filed against tree care services have risen sharply. By adherence and compliance to approved industry standards and safety requirements as required by the rule, tree care complaints, injuries and fatalities should be significantly reduced.

The adopted and promulgated Board of Tree Experts Rules, which appeared in the New Jersey Register on Monday, April 17, 2017, will provide full implementation of the Act to address the expectations and concerns of the public and the State regarding proper tree care and workforce safety in the tree care industry.

The Rules are consistent with the Act and will guide the New Jersey Board of Tree Experts to successfully implement the statutory purpose of the Tree Experts and Tree Care Operators Licensing Act. The Rules will provide a more comprehensive program to ensure safety and responsibility in the tree care industry. The Rules inform individuals involved in tree care how to become compliant with the requirements of the Act. The Act requires all tree care businesses in the State of New Jersey to register with the Board, provide specified safety training to its employees, maintain appropriate insurance, and abide by standards of professional conduct and ethics. Each registered business is required to have at least one licensee employed at each business location. The Act also created a licensing program under which individuals may become licensed as Tree Experts or Tree Care Operators by passing an examination and demonstrating good moral character. Licensees will be required to complete continuing education requirements, abide by standards of professional conduct and ethics, and adhere to safety standards as well as industry practice standards.

The Board of Tree Experts will maintain an on-line directory of Licensed Tree Experts, Licensed Tree Care Operators, and Tree Care Businesses, giving the public and the consumer greater confidence in selecting qualified and professional individuals and companies for their tree care needs.

To view or download a copy of the adopted Rules, visit the Board's website at: njtreeexperts.org. The Web-site contains all the information, forms and instructions for tree care businesses and current and potential licensees to become compliant with the Law. Initially there are several grace periods and time lines designed for businesses and individuals listed in the rules to help make the transition to a licensing and registration program.

The New Jersey Board of Tree Experts can be reached at 732 – 534 – 0982, by fax at 732 – 534 – 0983 or the Board's email: njtreeexperts@gmail.com . Mail can be sent to the Board's office at: 101 West Veterans Highway, Jackson, NJ 08527.

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