

Code Enforcement and You: Bulk / Hurricane Season Approaching

By: Robert C. Solera, Code Enforcement Director / Code Services Inc. President

The Hurricane Season is rapidly approaching. At the time this article was written a potential small storm was beginning to form. This article is to remind you of the do's and don'ts that our residents need to be aware of:

DO's

- 1). The removal of excessive branches and trees limbs which can damage your residence is one of the many precautions that one needs to be aware of and take action prior to the Hurricane Season. After all we are "Tree USA" which makes us a very unique Town. We are very proud of our trees, but at the same time they can be detrimental to your property and possible to adjacent properties as well.
- 2). Placement of cuttings under the guidelines of bulk is also encouraged. One must remember that the maximum amount allowed per bulk pickup date is 12 yards. If you are including household items as part of the pickup, they must be counted towards the maximum allowed. In addition, the branches cannot be larger than 4'-0" in length or our contractor SWS will not be able to provide a pickup.
- 3). Adhere to the correct collection date and week. As a reminder, bulk can be placed out for pickup on the Saturday prior to collection week. Any items that are placed before this date may be subjected to warnings and possible fines.

DON'TS

- 1). **DO NOT** wait until we are under a **Hurricane Watch or Warning** to begin any yard work that would require a bulk pickup. The date may not coincide with the collection date or week and the Town will not provide a special pickup to collect these items. The items will remain in place creating flying debris that will damage your property and others.
- 2). **DO NOT KILL THE TREES** – many times in an effort to prevent damage to our properties we tend to cut the trees way too much during cutting, becoming a hat racking scenario. Hat racking occurs when we cut more than 20% of the original tree canopy. This type of **action is illegal** and you will be cited accordingly. There is even the possibility that you will be required to install a replacement tree or more on the property.

Code Enforcement works with all residents to make sure that all their needs are met. In addition, let's have a safe and not sorry Hurricane Season, we all depend on your help with this issue, to keep our trees and to protect our neighbor's properties.