



Florida Chapter - International Society of Arboriculture

Date

Insurance Agency Name

Address

ZIP Code

Dear *Insurance Agent*,

It has been brought to the attention of the Florida Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) that your agency is requesting tree work at: _____ that is not in keeping with ANSI A300 Pruning Standards. Our concerns are that indiscriminate removal of all limbs growing over structures will have many negative impacts on the overall health and longevity of the tree, and can lead to future tree failure. As examples, improper pruning can destabilize the tree, can increase the likelihood for decay into the trunk and may stimulate weakly attached sprouts. Most importantly, this type of pruning will potentially increase the likelihood for the tree to fail and not necessarily just during a storm.

To reduce your concerns as well as ours, we recommend that you have your client contact an ISA Certified Arborist who also possesses a Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ) to perform a tree risk assessment report. This report will determine the current condition of the tree(s) and their branches, and whether the branches are properly attached. Most branches are firmly attached to the trunk structure and some are not; a skilled ISA Certified Arborist can tell the difference. The report will also provide the property owner the best options for any necessary pruning work and any other beneficial arboriculture treatments that may be needed.

Please consider our recommendation; together we can resolve any uncertainty your agency may have with trees adjacent to insured structures while making sure the health of the tree is not negatively impacted.

Here are a few web links that can provide more information about hiring ISA Certified Arborists, tree care and other tree benefits:

<http://www.isa-arbor.com/findanarborist/findanarborist.aspx>

<http://www.isa-arbor.com/publicOutreach/whyHireCertifiedArborist/index.aspx>

<http://www.floridaisa.org/hiring.php>

<http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/maintenance.shtml>

<http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/pruning.shtml>

<http://www.treesaregood.com/>

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact our office at (941) 342-0153 or e-mail us at jan@floridaisa.org

Thank you again for working with us on properly caring for the trees...

Sincerely,

Norman C. Easey, CEO
Florida Chapter ISA