

Emergency Tree Removal in NYC: When to Call, What It Costs, and Who Pays

Quick reference guide by Dragonetti Tree Removal

Real emergencies (call now)

Tree on structure. Tree blocking driveway/access. Hung up tree (widow maker). Tree leaning after wind, ice, or root failure.

Not emergencies (book daytime)

Single broken branch in canopy. Dead-looking tree with no lean. Old stumps. Storm debris in yard.

Realistic arrival times

Isolated NYC emergency: 90 min to 4 hours. After borough-wide storm: 12 to 48 hours unless life safety.

Cost ranges 2026 NYC

Small no-crane: \$1.2k-\$3.5k. Medium: \$3.5k-\$9k. Large with crane: \$8k-\$25k+. Storm full response: \$12k-\$40k+.

After-hours premium

Add 30-60% for nights/weekends/holidays. Add 15-25% for tight access.

Insurance covered

Damage to structures. Tree removal from structure (capped \$500-\$1,500 per tree). Vehicle damage (auto comp). Loss of use.

Insurance NOT covered

Tree fell in yard hitting nothing. Removal cost above policy cap. Trees that were already dead. Healthy tree onto neighbor.

First 30 minutes

Distance everyone. Call 911 if power lines. Photograph everything. Open insurance claim. Call licensed removal crew. 311 if city tree involved.

Vet your crew

Ask for NY State registration + DCWP license. COI with your address as additional insured. ISA Certified Arborist or TCIA CTSP credentials.

dragonettitreeremoval.com