

# Urban Forest Strike Team Training

Urbana, IL

July 18-19, 2019

Sponsored by:

**Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Arborist Association, Massachusetts Tree Wardens & Foresters Association, and the USDA Forest Service**

## **Urban Forest Strike Team Overview:**

Natural disasters cause significant damage to our urban forests each year, and the resulting assessment and cleanup responsibilities are a challenge for many communities. The Urban Forest Strike Team (UFST) Initiative was developed to provide training and assist communities after disasters. Working through State Urban Forestry Coordinators, the UFST initiative recruits, trains, and deploys professional urban foresters and arborists to assess tree damage. These assessments help communities plan needed recovery work, save tree cover, improve public safety, and document the amount of damage and clean-up cost. Attendees will find the training useful in their own community or business, and those who meet basic requirements can be included on a State Roster, to be contacted to assist if a disaster occurs in your area (see UFST Brief for more information).

## **Training Overview:**

The two-day training involves an overview of the Urban Forest Strike Team initiative and assessment process, FEMA standards, tree risk assessment criteria, and use of mobile devices as data collectors. About half of the training is done in outside exercises to practice using the protocol in the field. Three pre-workshop assignments must be completed prior to the workshop (see below for details).

## **Minimum Requirements to Attend:**

UFST participants must have the following:

- International Society of Arboriculture Arborist Certification or comparable state arborist certification. Highly qualified Foresters/Arborists without arborist certification may attend with the consent of your State Urban Forestry Coordinator. These attendees will be eligible for deployments within their home state but will not be eligible to travel to other states on UFST responses. Contact your State Coordinator, listed below, for more information.
- Completion of the on-line course "Introduction to the Incident Command System" (see below).
- At least basic knowledge of and experience with tree risk assessments and storm damage.
- Interest in participating in voluntary UFST deployments/assessments (see UFST Brief for more information).

## **Workshop Times and Dates:**

Thursday, July 18, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Friday, July 19, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

## **Training Location:**

Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS)

1701 E. Main Street

Urbana, IL 61802

**Workshop Prerequisites (all free)**

The following pre-work is required, and must be completed prior to workshop:

1. Completion of the on-line course "Introduction to the Incident Command System: IS-100.b."  
This NIMS course takes 2-3 hours to complete and is available on-line at <http://training.fema.gov/IS/NIMS.asp>.  
Confirm completion by submitting a completion certificate to April Toney (see contact info below). If you have completed IS-100.b, IS-100, or IS-100.a over the past 5 years and can provide a certificate for documentation, that is acceptable.
2. Review the ISA Tree Risk Assessment BMP Booklet (copy will be sent upon registration).
3. Read the UFST Brief (attached).

**Training Registration and Cost: \$25**

Those who are interested in attending should send the attached registration form with payment by **June 24<sup>th</sup>**. Attendance is limited to 27, and we anticipate this training to fill so register as soon as possible. The \$25 fee covers an UFST Training Manual, the ISA Tree Risk BMP booklet, two lunches, and breaks during the workshop.

**Continuing Education Credits:** 12 ISA Certified Arborist CEUs will be available.

**Nearby Lodging if Needed:**

Hampton Inn, 1200 W University Ave, Urbana, IL 61801  
<https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/cmiihx-hampton-champaign-urbana>  
217-337-1100

Holiday Inn Express & Suites Urbana-Champaign  
1003 Killarney Street, Urbana, Illinois 61801  
<https://www.ihg.com/holidayinnexpress/hotels/us/en/urbana/cmiiil/hoteldetail>  
217-328-0328

**Contact Information:**

About the program or training:

- Illinois DNR – Jim Tresouthick, Acting Urban Forestry Coordinator, 815-476-0256, [Jim.Tresouthick@illinois.gov](mailto:Jim.Tresouthick@illinois.gov)
- U.S. Forest Service – Jill Johnson, 651-649-5253, [jill.johnson@usda.gov](mailto:jill.johnson@usda.gov)

About registration or to send completion certificates for the "Introduction to the Incident Command System":

April Toney, Executive Director  
Illinois Arborist Association  
P.O. Box 860  
Antioch, IL 60002  
Phone: 877-617-8887  
Fax: 262-857-6677  
Email: [april@illinoisarborist.org](mailto:april@illinoisarborist.org)