

**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**  
**SPECIAL REPORT PW-010/10**  
**Curb side Pickup of Brush from Storms**  
December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009

---

Mayor Holbrough and Members of Council

**Purpose**

As requested by the CAO, the following report outlines the costs to provide a curb side storm brush pickup.

**Background**

After the Aug 8<sup>th</sup> 2009 summer storm, numerous private and public branches and trees were down. During that time Council made the decision not to do a special curb side storm damage pickup but to stay with the current service level where residents take brush to the depot.

**Discussion**

To provide a curb side program after storms it would require the help of contractors. For the purpose of this report costs are calculated for a storm such as the one on Aug. 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Costs**

4 tri-axle trucks	\$320.00/hr
1, 3 yard loader	90.00/hr
2 labourers	<u>60.00/hr</u>
	\$470.00/hr

Pickup would run approx. 18 days @ 8 hrs/day = 144 hrs.

144 hours X \$470.00/hr = \$67,680.00

**Logistics for Consideration**

1. A reserve would have to be setup to cover the costs of the pickup. Realistically an amount of \$135,400 should be setup to cover multiple storms in a single year.
2. Council would have to meet for each storm event to determine if the pickup would be done.
3. Advertising would need to be done for each storm pickup event.
4. Once a deviation from the current depot system occurs, a curb side pickup will be expected after every storm.
5. During the curb side pickup residents would set out brush that was not related to the storm.

## **Recommendation**

The writer will not make any recommendations but would like to highlight the following points for consideration:

1. The current depot system is a cost effective method of handling brush.
2. Since the depot system was implemented requests for regular curb side brush pickup have diminished.
3. All the brush from these storms either ended up at the depot or was disposed of by other means ie: contractors. This indicates that residents have adequate means under the current system to dispose of brush.

Respectfully submitted by

John Phillips  
Director of Public Works