



Know your Tree Coordinator!

**Ade Adeniyi Tree Canopy
Coordinator serving the
SWEA**

**SWEA G.A.L.A graduate of the 3rd cohort.
Previously a director of operations for a junk
removal company. Was also an Emergency
Medical Technician for a private ambulance
company for a number of years.**

A group of approximately 15 people, mostly wearing bright yellow high-visibility safety vests, are working on a residential street. They are engaged in various tasks: some are digging in the grass, others are standing near a white pickup truck with a large white tank on its bed, and one person is using a wheelbarrow. In the background, there are two prominent houses: a white one with a green roof on the left and a blue one with a red door on the right. The scene is set on a clear, sunny day with green trees and a blue sky.

Emergency Situations During Planting Days

Keeping Our Crews, Volunteers & Community Safe

Tree planting involves heavy lifting, digging, hand tools, heat and sun exposure, streets and sidewalks, uneven surfaces, insects, animals, weather, and interaction with the public.

OUR #1 PRIORITY: Everyone goes home safely.

Before We Start Planting

A Safe Planting Day Starts Before the First Tree Is Dug

- Inspect the planting site for hazards
- Check weather conditions
- Identify emergency access and safe locations
- Make sure a first-aid kit and drinking water are available
- Confirm emergency contact information
- Make sure everyone has appropriate PPE
- Review the day's safety procedures
- Know the site supervisor/crew leader

If something doesn't look safe: STOP and report it before starting work.



Heat, Dehydration & Heat Illness

A group of approximately 15 diverse construction workers are posing for a photo outdoors. They are wearing high-visibility yellow safety vests over various work clothes. Some are wearing hats, including a wide-brimmed hat and a beanie. They are standing in front of a light-colored house with a dark fence and a young tree. Two workers are crouching in the foreground, while the rest are standing in a line behind them. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

Hot Weather Can Become an Emergency Quickly

HEAT EXHAUSTION: Heavy sweating, weakness, dizziness, headache, nausea, muscle cramps, or feeling faint.

HEAT STROKE — EMERGENCY: Confusion, unusual behavior, loss of consciousness, seizure, or very high body temperature.

WHAT TO DO: Stop work → Move to a cool/shaded area → Cool the person → Give water only if alert and able to drink → Monitor → Call 911 for suspected heat stroke or rapidly worsening symptoms.

Never tell someone to “push through” heat illness.

Cuts, Falls & Tool Injuries

Small Injuries Can Become Serious

Common injuries: cuts, blisters, splinters, sprains, strains, trips, falls, back injuries, puncture wounds, and blunt trauma.

STOP → SECURE → ASSESS → RESPOND → REPORT

STOP: Stop work around the injured person.

SECURE: Make sure the area is safe.

ASSESS: Determine what happened and how serious it may be.

RESPOND: Provide appropriate first aid and get emergency help when needed.

REPORT: Notify the supervisor and document the incident.”

“SAFETY FIRST — NO TREE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN A PERSON.”



An aerial photograph of a city, likely New York City, showing a dense urban landscape with various buildings and streets. In the foreground on the left, a tall building with a grid-like facade is visible. The sky is filled with heavy, dark, and dramatic clouds, suggesting an approaching storm or severe weather. The overall tone is serious and urgent.

Severe Weather & Environmental Emergencies

When Mother Nature Says STOP — We STOP

Pause or stop planting for thunderstorms/lightning, strong winds, extreme heat, heavy rain/flooding, or severe weather warnings.

LIGHTNING SAFETY: Stop planting → Move away from open areas → Seek appropriate substantial shelter → Do not resume until conditions are safe.

A planting schedule can change. People's safety cannot be replaced.

Situational Emergency

A photograph of a man in a flat cap and a blue and white striped shirt, shouting with his mouth wide open and pointing his finger. He is standing behind a wooden fence. In the foreground, the back of another man's head is visible, looking towards the shouting man. The background consists of green foliage.

STOP • ASSESS • Reassure • RESPOND • REPORT

1. **STOP** — pause the activity immediately.
2. **Assurance** — Try to answer any questions professionally.
3. **Reassurance** — Seek out a Tree Canopy Coordinator for assistance.
4. **RESPOND BY** — Walking away.
5. **REPORT** — TCC will and should contact 911 for police presence.

WHEN IN DOUBT, GET HELP.

SAFETY FIRST — NO TREE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN A PERSON.