



For Immediate Release

Contact: Corporate Communications
708 Blair Mill Road, Willow Grove, PA 19090
Phone 800-248-8733 / Fax 215-784-4405
www.asplundh.com

Date: September 3, 2008

Asplundh Tree Crews Respond to Hurricane Gustav

Willow Grove, PA—After several days of preparations and many hours of travel, Asplundh Tree Expert Co. now has several thousand tree workers in Louisiana and Mississippi ready to clear tree debris from roads and power lines after Hurricane Gustav came ashore Monday. Asplundh employees from 16 states are assisting hundreds of local Asplundh crews in storm restoration work for the following electric utility companies and municipalities: Entergy, Central Louisiana Electric Co., City of Lafayette, Mississippi Power, Washington-St. Tammany Electric Cooperative, Valley Electric Membership Corp., Dixie Electric Membership Corp., Magnolia Electric Power and the City of Kaplan. Almost 200 of those employees are clearing and collecting debris for the Louisiana DOT.

The company's tree workers have traveled many miles, some from as far away as Pennsylvania, and are working long hours to clear toppled trees and broken limbs from the power lines and roadways. The vast majority of Asplundh crews are working for Entergy in southern Louisiana and southwestern Mississippi. To help the utility feed and house so many additional tree and line crews, Asplundh has been contracted to build 'tent cities' to accommodate mobilized workers in the affected area. Asplundh also sent its Mobile Storm Center trailer to the Jackson, Mississippi area to be a base of operations and communications center for its crews.

“Everyone at Asplundh understands the urgent need to help utilities safely restore electricity after this hurricane. We all remember the damage done by Katrina and Rita. This time New Orleans was relatively unscathed, but we know there will be many long, hot hours and wet conditions ahead for thousands of more rural customers and our own employees. The one thing we cannot compromise is the safety and welfare of our employees, as well as the thousands of people affected by this storm,” said Company President Scott Asplundh. “We also can’t forget to applaud the cooperation of the more than 50 utilities and municipalities who released our crews to do this work and to thank our employees’ families for supporting their loved ones on duty.”

Clearing tree debris is just one of the important steps in getting life back to normal for those communities affected by Gustav. Personal and public safety must continue to be a major concern. Asplundh’s corporate and regional safety supervisors are conducting daily safety briefings with employees to remind them of the hazards posed by broken trees, downed power lines and flooding.

In addition to responding to the damage done by Hurricane Gustav, Asplundh’s Storm Coordination team is also preparing to mobilize crews if needed for Tropical Storms Hanna, Ike and Josephine.

Asplundh Tree Expert Co. is a family-owned and managed vegetation management company headquartered just outside of Philadelphia in Willow Grove, PA. It primarily provides services to utilities and municipalities. The Asplundh family of companies employs approximately 28,000 men and women throughout the U.S., Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

#