

Remembering Windstorm 2015

As we steam right along out of the month of October and into November, I am reminded of the lyrics of Gordon Lightfoot in his song, "The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald". The song was written about an American Great Lakes freighter that sank in Lake Superior. My dad was a tug boat operator on the Great Lakes during this disaster and we lived not very far from where all twenty-nine men lost their lives. The song if you have ever heard it, is very haunting with lyrics like "When the skies of November turn gloomy" and "When the gales of November come early." I was only two when this largest ship to ever be sunk in Lake Superior went down under thirty-five-foot waves. I grew up hearing and seeing the power of November storms on Lake Superior.

Fast forward to the year 2015 and approximately eighteen hundred miles west of where the Edmund Fitzgerald went down. Another November storm was brewing that would also go down in infamy. As an Arborist and Tree Service business owner, storms are something I pay close attention to. Weather of all kinds effect our work in a myriad of ways, especially wind. We are vigilant weather watchers and any forecasted wind advisories really piques our interest. Often wind storms can hit with little to no warning or they end up being less than what was forecasted. The big windstorm of November 2015 however was different. It came up on the meteorologist radar with a high probability in advance and punched us with exactly the wind speeds that were forecasted. Over 70 percent of Avista's customers were out of power after the storm. This even surpassed the big Ice Storm of 1996, making it the largest outage in the company's history.

For most of November we will dedicate our articles to this storm, the facts, the memories and what we learned so stay tuned! As always, for further questions, quotes and consultations, give us a call today!