

## Licensed Applicators Meet High Standards

*This article was written by Margaret Bowes, Marketing Director, Alpine Tree Services with information provided by the USDA and Colorado Department of Agriculture.*

Don't just hire the first tree company that leaves a flyer on your doorstep without first determining if the applicator is appropriately licensed to do the work. The Colorado Department of Agriculture recommends hiring only licensed commercial pesticide applicators. The Colorado Pesticide Applicators' Act requires any person or company that applies pesticides for hire be licensed as a commercial applicator.

Companies providing preventative tree spraying services using any insecticide must be licensed. Even those companies advertising they only use organic or natural products are still applying pesticides as defined by the law.

"Every licensed commercial applicator in Colorado has to meet strict testing requirements that are enforced by the Colorado Department of Agriculture," said Matt Lopez pesticide enforcement specialist for CDA's Pesticide Section. "For better environmental and public safety, they must have the necessary training, expertise and experience to apply these chemicals."

Of course there are costs associated with getting licensed. This might explain why an unlicensed company's bid is lower than a licensed one. Don't assume that all bids are created equal! Contact the Colorado Department of Agriculture Pesticide Section at (303) 239-4151 with questions or to determine if a tree service company is licensed!

*This information is provided by **Alpine Tree Services**, a licensed company serving Summit County for ten years. ATS is truly locally owned and owner operated, and dedicated to quality, professional service. **AlpineTreeServices.com** is a great source of information on Mountain Pine Beetle and offers a complete list of their services. Also find complete information on the eco-friendly, owner-installed Beetle Block and purchase it directly from the website. Contact owners Jake Fiala and Casey Snyder for a free estimate at 970-389-4964.*