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By Angel Russell

California must now live with weakening trees after years of drought and impacts of disease. The combination is now causing millions of trees statewide to collapse.



"I think we haven't seen the worst of it yet," said Ron Rinell, owner of Bunyon Brothers Tree Service.

The recent drenching of winter rains is making our trees top heavy. Mix that with unstable roots and all the trees need now is a little push.

"Now that the ground is saturated, if we have a big wind, we are going to have trees all over the place," said Rinell.

This season, we've already seen dozens of trees crash around the coast; one landing on a car at the San Luis Obispo Department of Motor Vehicles, another hitting a home in Atascadero.

Just because the "epidemic" can't be stopped doesn't mean that a problem in your backyard can't be managed or contained.

"Pay attention. If you have something you are concerned with, call someone and have it addressed," said Rinell.

For some, the root of the problem can't be addressed. Dezri Smith lives in a mobile home that borders several large eucalyptus trees inside the Pismo Beach Monarch Butterfly Grove.

"From the monarch butterfly and the Pismo Beach campgrounds, we can hear those trees fall on a constant basis," said Dezri Smith.

A month ago a 135-foot eucalyptus tree came crashing down on his neighbor's house, taking out the side of the home. The neighbors have no control over the trees since they are on state-protected land, and storms like this worry neighbors.

"Hopefully it won't happen, it hasn't happen, but the potential is always there," said Smith.

While each passing storm brings the potential, it seems this problem won't be going away anytime soon.

"This will be an ongoing thing I believe for several years to come," said Ron Rinell, Owner of Bunyon Brothers Tree Service.

If you see a tree that has fallen on a road or on power lines, call 911.