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SKINNING THE PALMS IN DOWNTOWN TWENTYNINE PALMS

Workers from the Windy Tree Landscaping Service can be seen along Twentynine Palms Highway and Adobe Road this month performing maintenance and cleanup work on the City's palm trees. Under contract with the City of Twentynine Palms Public Works Department, the landscaping company is performing a service known as "skinning" the palms.

While residents may be accustomed to seeing the annual trimming of the palm fronds in the downtown area, the procedure of skinning the trunks is beyond the normal maintenance and only occurs every 10 years or so, for public safety reasons.

According to certified arborist Warren Miller of Palm Springs, "Skinning is the practice of removing some or all of the old palm frond bases from the trunk with the use of a sharp carpet knife, cutting along the fibrous base of the frond, being careful not to cut into the living tissue, and stopping three feet from the green fronds at the top of the tree." The practice of grooming the palms does not hurt the tree, and it is necessary to eliminate the messy and sometimes dangerous natural trash drop from the palms that line the highway and Adobe Road.

This may come as good news to motorists and pedestrians in the downtown area who have had to navigate around an unusual amount of frond base debris that has blown down from the palms during this year's windy weather.

The palm skinning procedure is expected to continue over the next two to three weeks. For questions or more information, residents can contact Public Works Superintendent Jose Nieves at (760)367-7623.

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