



A Tree in the Road

“Screech!!” it seemed a host of vehicle breaks all came to a stop, all at once! George the traffic policeman had to suddenly flag cars down to stop.

“I knew something was about to happen, with winds blowing this strongly!” he said, as he walked over the huge tree that now lay in the road.”

Just what could be done now, he wasn’t sure. Traffic would back up soon, and there was no quick way to get the road cleared.

“It’s a good thing I was here at this time—and that no one was right there when it fell!” George pondered.

“This could be worse. Just a little delay in a trip was nothing like it could have been if the tree had fallen at the wrong place and the wrong time.”

When people asked him about how long it would be until they could get on their way again, or why they would have to take a longer detour to get to their destination, he’d remind them of these positive thoughts.

The first thing was to get some help to direct the drivers down another road, and the ones that were right there at the scene of the fallen tree would need to be able to turn around and drive out and take another route.

George called Berry Beary Kind and asked for some help. Berry Beary Kind had a team of experts who knew the area very well who quickly met together and drew up a mini map that showed the new way they would be able to take, until the road was cleared. These maps were printed out and given to those backed up in traffic.

Meanwhile, Rescue Bear was summoned to bring a team with some tools to cut the log on either side of the road, and move the cut out piece out of the way. The strong team of young men, who were used to going to get logs and split wood for their fire places, did this job well.

It was wonderful when everyone in the town was ready to be on call, in some way, when an emergency arose. With someone in charge of summoning the right team, and knowing who to call on, it was quick to get help.

Of course not everyone listed on the “volunteers” list could always come, but not everyone was needed, every time.

The person in charge of calling on certain volunteer team knew how many was needed, and would contact and have come just the amount needed.

If some didn't help with the assignment one time, they could be called on to help the next time.

Everyone got to have a turn—helping sometimes, and not being called on at other times—especially if they were on more than one list of volunteers, and more than one type of helping team was needed.

In just one and a half hours the road was clear, and all traffic was moving along swiftly again.

Thankfully the wind was calmer too.

Berry Beary High had a thought that something needed to be checked out about the trees that lined the road.

He made a note that first thing the next day, those who knew trees well should go to prune off weak branches that might fall in the wind to the cars below, and to see if any others trees were too weak to stand, and posed a safety threat.

“It’s better to always keep a step ahead—not just to patch up problems, but to be on the look out to prevent other dangers from occurring,” Berry Beary High said to George as he left.

“Yes, very good. I agree,” said a thankful traffic controlling policeman.

He was glad that so many cared about the wellbeing of the others and didn’t just do the minimum that they were asked to help with, but that they took the initiative to do more.

“Those with caring hearts, thinking brains, and eager-to-help hands and feet are what make this town safe and pleasant,” George said as he waved good-bye to the last of the helpers on the scene.

They all agreed those were three very important tools to have to build a nice life for each one in the town.