

Promote Healthy and Safe Forests

Urban Tree Risk Management: A Community Guide to Program Design and Implementation

The Challenge

Trees can pose a significant risk to public safety and property, particularly trees with hazardous defects that make them structurally unsafe and prone to failure. History documents that most trees fail during storms, and each year many storms rage through the United States. These storms and associated tree/limb failures cause numerous deaths and billions of dollars in property damage, cleanup, and restoration costs. Most community forestry management plans state the need to remove high-risk or hazardous trees as a top priority, but fail to provide a systematic approach or action steps to accomplish this goal.

The Solution

To address this information gap, the US Forest Service assembled a national team of experts to produce a new training guide, *Urban Tree Risk Management: A Community Guide to Program Design and Implementation*. The new Guide focuses on the prevention and correction of hazardous tree defects, and provides a written, systematic approach for inspecting and detecting hazardous trees. It outlines a 10-step process for designing a program that defines policy, establishes tree risk zones, implements cyclic risk inspections, and prioritizes corrective actions. Extensive review by city foresters, consulting arborists, and educators ensured the information is applicable for communities of varying size and budgets.

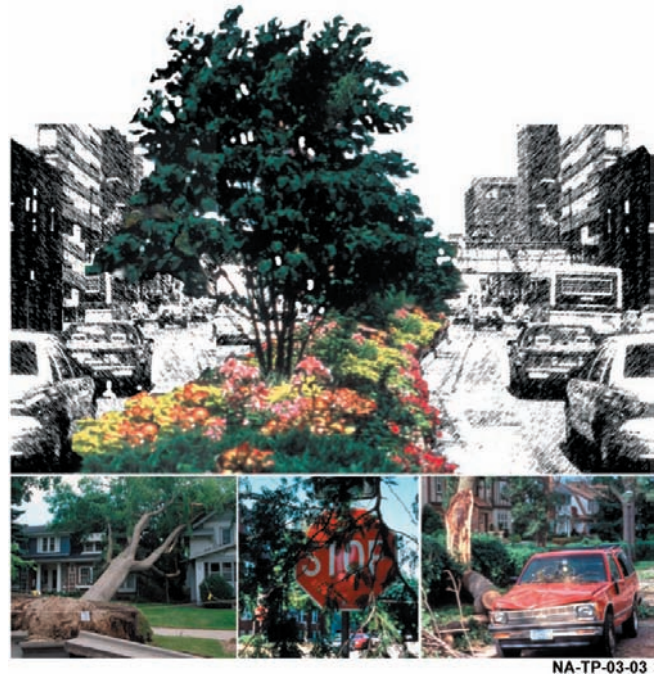
Resulting Benefits

Communities now have a fully illustrated, easy to read, training guide to assist administrators, program managers, and city foresters design and implement successful tree risk management programs. A tree risk management program, properly applied, is an invaluable community investment that promotes the health and longevity of

The new Guide fills a critical information gap, and serves as a toolkit for communities to design and implement successful tree risk management programs.

Urban Tree Risk Management:

A Community Guide to Program Design and Implementation



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This 200-page guide serves as a program design toolkit for communities.

our forests, improves storm preparedness and response, reduces catastrophic impacts to program budgets, protects against lawsuits, and literally saves lives.

Sharing Success

- Since its release in September 2003, the Forest Service Northeastern Area has distributed over 25,000 copies.
- Regional train-the-trainer workshops have been conducted throughout the Northeastern Area, reaching more than 300 urban forestry professionals from 15 states.
- Jill Pokorny, coordinating author of the Guide, has presented at three national conferences, one international conference, and more than 25 state-wide and regional urban forestry conferences and meetings.

In 2004, the publication received the Award of Merit from the Minnesota Society of Arboriculture.



USDA Forest Service
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