

**Natural Path Urban Forestry Consultants
Tree Risk Management Workshop - Agenda
Hyatt Regency – Lisle, Illinois, April 4th, 2017**

8:00 – 8:30 Registration and Introductions

8:30 – 9:15 Session 1 - Concepts of Risk Management

The opening session will provide a framework for the day by reviewing risk management concepts and how they are used to manage uncertainty. The focus will be on the significant differences between a tree risk assessment and tree risk management and how these are used in management and litigation. Discussion will transition into our evolving understanding of risk within arboriculture and urban forestry.

9:15 – 10:15 Session 2 - Reasonable and Practical

Risk is managed over time, yet the typical approach to tree risk is an immediate reaction to the rare, tree-related, litigation case. These reactions tend to have no impact on actual exposure to risk. The foundation for managing risk at a system level is identifying risk factors and establishing a management strategy that is both reasonable in its scope and practical to implement, a concept known as ALARP. Defining a strategy includes gauging whether implementing risk reduction tasks actually reduce risk exposure.

10:15 – 10:30 Break

10:30 – 12:00 Session 3 - Risk Analysis

This session will provide detailed guidance about how to conduct a tree risk analysis. The four elements that will be discussed include: trees at the system level, policies on managing those trees, operational programs that address tree risk and analyzing the historic record. Classroom and group exercises will equip participants to effectively assess their program.

12:00 – 12:45 Lunch

12:45 – 1:30 Session 4 - Defining Risk Reduction Goals

Every agency and company manages tree risk differently as a function of their specific tree population and the resources available. In this session, participants will use a framework to articulate their specific program's theme. Their individual theme will be based on their risk analysis, definition of risk reduction goals, and the documentation required to define the program.

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- 1:30 – 2:30 Session 5 - Refining Operations to Identify and Mitigate High-risk Trees**
This session focuses on refining the operational program that identifies and mitigates the trees that pose the highest risk to the users of public space or to a client. Numerous incidences of injuries and fatalities involve high-risk trees previously identified for removal. In these instances, depending on the context, the program mechanics for removing trees failed. This session details short-term strategies to manage risk that focus on enhancing staff skills, refining the processes for identifying high-risk trees, and timelines for moving high-risk trees out of the population in a timely fashion.
- 2:30 – 2:45 Break**
- 2:45 – 3:45 Session 6 - Long Term Policies**
The goal of the tree manager and arborist is to steward a system in a sustainable way that maintains a healthy, safe and expanding tree canopy. This is achieved by implementing balanced policies with attention toward the generational benefits of trees. This session will synthesize the day’s discussions into developing and implementing long-term strategic tree risk reduction goals. The framework for a tree risk management plan will be presented.
- 3:45 – 4:30 Session 7 - Program Refinement**
An important feature of any strong program is the ability to periodically evaluate whether the existing program is meeting the desired goals. This closing session will provide a template for evaluating a program and defining the indicators that can be used to best gauge the effectiveness of the program.