This online seminar on the topic of managing tree risk is presented in three, 1 1/2-hour modules over consecutive Tuesdays in September. Each module covers a critical element of a comprehensive tree risk management program: Risk Management Concepts, Risk Analysis and Risk Mitigation, Review and Documentation. Each module will be presented in four time slots on the day scheduled to accommodate a broad regional and international participation. The seminar is designed for any arborist, consultant, tree-care company owner or public agency employee who manage systems of trees.

While tree risk assessments have been a topic covered in detail within the greater arboricultural profession, risk management has not. This disparity has resulted in a poor understanding of risk, which may result in choices that increase liability exposures and misrepresent risk. The purpose of this seminar is to address the risk assessment versus risk management distinction and provide guidance on formulating and implementing reasonable, thoughtful and defensible risk management policies.

Module 1 – September 4th – Risk Management Concepts

Module 1 provides the framework for managing risk within an arboriculture and urban forestry context. The opening topic will be an overview of the recently updated International Organization on Standardization's (ISO) 31000 (2018) – Risk Management: Guidelines and the ISO's 31010 (2018) Risk Analysis documents. With this framework in mind, the discussion will segue to the unique role that tree risk assessments play within larger risk management concepts and common logical fallacies in tree-related litigation that undermine risk management concepts. The final topic of this module will present a structure for managing tree risk using an adaptation of the "As Low as Reasonably Practical" model.

Module 2 – September 11th – Risk Analysis

Understanding risk exposure is essential to developing a comprehensive tree risk management plan. Module 2 provides tools for analyzing risk exposure by assessing: the tree population being managed, past failure history, staff capacity, and company/agency operations. The outcome of this module will be the identification of risk thresholds that form a benchmark for evaluating and improving on program efficacy.

Module 3 – September 18th – Risk Mitigation, Review and Documentation

Module 3 builds on the first two modules by discussing tools for implementing mitigation strategies as a response to identified system level risk vulnerabilities. This module will conclude with a discussion on strategies and tools for quantifying risk reduction over time and identifying ways to document the reasoning for policy-level choices.