



Risk Alert Ash Trees – Dead, dying or about to be

As the destruction of ash trees continues within the United States due to the effects of the Emerald Ash Borer Beetle, the trees that have been killed by this invasive pest that remain standing are becoming a hazard to both lives and property. High winds, strong storms and how long the tree has remained standing while dead all create the potential for an incident or property damage from a falling tree or branch. These dead or dying trees can be located anywhere on your property; their demise may be rapid or slow depending on tree diameter and not readily noticeable without examination. A falling tree or limb can cause serious injuries, fatalities, property damage or any combination thereof to occur. While the direct effect of a dead tree or limb landing on a building or individual is evident, the additional consequences and what may not be realized is your business can be found liable for the effects and damage the fallen tree has caused.

Recently during a period of only moderate winds and rain, a large, dead ash tree fell across two lanes of a major highway at some point during the night. The first vehicle traveling the highway after the tree had fallen struck it head on and while the driver had minor injuries the front end of the SUV was heavily damaged from the impact. During the recent storms along the east coast a child was killed when a falling tree came down on the roof of a building. Fatalities and severe injuries from falling limbs have also occurred.

Based upon the above this risk alert is being issued to strongly recommend that you survey your property for any dead or dying trees and take appropriate actions to remove them prior to an incident. While specifically identifying the Emerald Ash Borer and ash trees within this bulletin, all trees within your property should be surveyed to determine their fitness and condition. This survey along with any remedial actions taken should be documented and maintained. This preventative action should be undertaken on a regular basis

The Emerald Ash Borer is an invasive insect that arrived in the US in the late 1990's most likely within the wood packing used to contain and protect cargo on ships. Prior to 2002 the Emerald Ash Borer had never been found in North America. For additional information on the Emerald Ash Borer visit the following web-sites. www.emeraldashborer.info or www.ashalert.osu.edu . Or, you may call the USDA EAB (Emerald Ash Borer) Hotline at 866.322.4512

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