

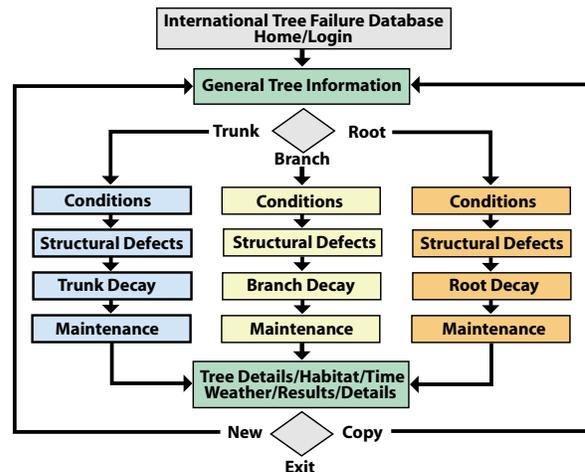


ITFD will provide web site access to a database for the storage and retrieval of facts and figures collected from fallen hazardous trees. This data will accumulate over time presenting species, environmental conditions and details surrounding the failure area on the tree. These records will be the foundation for historical trend analyses offering a valuable resource to campgrounds, golf courses, trails, parks and homeowners. **FHTET** designed and developed the internet configuration in cooperation with John Pronos, Plant Pathologist and Hazard Tree Committee Chairman for the Western International Disease Work Conference.

Background

Several tree failure reporting programs have operated in different locations within the United States since the 1960's. Two programs are currently active and include the: California Tree Failure Report Program (CTFRP), which began in 1987, and the Pacific Northwest International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Chapter Program, which began in 2001. These programs are very popular locally and provide invaluable information, particularly to individuals within the geographic area they serve. The rewards of a national program are well recognized by federal agencies, urban planners, utility companies, and consultants to private homeowners but have never been implemented.

Benefits include, providing hazardous tree data analysis to determine the best and worst tree species for a particular geographical area or practices that may accelerate the demise of a hazardous tree. In May 2001, the western hazard tree workshop was held in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho where the concept of a national database was brought up again. John Pronos pursued the idea by requesting FHTET's assistance for technical support. It was accepted and supported by regional pathologists affiliated with hazardous trees and local ISA chapters.



Cooperators and Their Roles

Forest Service representatives:

- Region 1&4 Marcus Jackson, John Schwandt
- Region 2 Jim Worrall
- Region 3 Mary Lou Fairweather
- Region 5 John Pronos (Project Lead)
- Region 6 Diane Hildebrand
- Region 8 Bill Jones, Dale Starkey
- NE Area Joe O'Brien
- Region 10 Paul Hennon
- WO Kerry Britton
- FHTET Judy Adams (Technical Manager)

CTFRP representatives:

- Larry Costello, University of California, Berkley
- Katherine Jones, University of California, Berkley

Urban & Community Forestry Program grants recipients for support tools:

- Jim Clark, HortScience, Pleasanton, CA
- Tom Smiley, Bartlett Tree Research Lab, Charlotte, NC
- Natural Resource Conservation Service is providing web-farm services.

Project Goal

The goal of the International Tree Failure Database (ITFD) is to collect information from voluntary participants at the federal, state, county and private sectors. The information will be entered into an internet accessible database, that ultimately provides those associated with hazardous trees a better understanding of tree failures and related trends leading to increased public safety.

Objectives

- Establish a protocol for reporting tree failures
- Maintain and utilize the data to characterize why and which trees fail
- Make the data available to users on an interactive web site

Technology Transfer Tools

- Interactive web site with help system
- Paper form
- User's guide
- Implementation plan within the Forest Service

Development Status

The program is modeled after the existing California Tree Failure Reporting Program (CTFRP) both the database and the report form. A web site and database have been successfully developed and implemented for review. A final set of changes have been identified and are in progress. Upon completion the web site will be available to state cooperators for their input.

Implementing ITFD

Advertising the existence of the database and then getting individuals to submit tree failure reports will be a major effort in the early stages. USDA Forest Service personnel in each of the 9 Forest Service Regions will be responsible for coordinating with the states. Upon completion of the database changes, key contacts from each state will be informed, provided web site access and invited to explore, share and provide feedback to the committee.



The International Society of Arboriculture is already well structured through their international headquarters and local chapters to reach those who work in the private sector, utility companies, and for municipal and county governments. At the annual Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA) Expo held in Baltimore the project was introduced and well received by those in attendance.

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