

Hazard Tree Committee Report

Submitted by John Pronos

The Hazard Tree Committee sponsored its third Western Hazard Tree Workshop in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, from May 22-24, 2001. About 60 people attended, and 19 different speakers made either individual presentations or participated in one of 6 panels. Panel topics included: Effects of Wind On Trees; Snag Biology; Legal Issues; Data Collection and Management; Hazard Tree Case Studies; and Concessionaires and Hazard Trees. One-half of the 3-day workshop was spent on indoor discussions and the other half was spent in the field. John Schwandt and Jane Taylor organized the field trips and made local arrangements. Panel organizers included Alan Kanaskie, Jim Hadfield, John Guyon, Pete Angwin, Mary Lou Fairweather and Jim Worrall.

The previous workshops were held on a cycle of three years, and if this remains the pattern, the next workshop will be in 2004.

The Hazard Tree Committee had its annual meeting during lunch on September 11, 2001 at the Carmel, California WIFDWC. Thirty-four people attended and discussed the following 3 topics:

1. A summary/review of the HT Workshop in Coeur d'Alene. Copies of the agenda, attendee list and presentation summaries were available. If we meet in 2004, two possible locations are Region 2 or Region 3.
2. Using measured stress to test defective trees. One presentation at the Coeur d'Alene workshop described how measured stresses generated by a winch and cable were used to determine how much wind force healthy trees could withstand. We discussed the possibility of using this technique to test defective trees.
3. National tree failure database. The Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team in Fort Collins has agreed to maintain a database and website for tree failures in the U.S. and Canada (FHTET contact is Judy Adams). This national program will be modeled after the California Tree Failure Reporting Program that has been operating since 1990. People who have volunteered to help guide this effort include: Joe O'Brien, Jim Worrall, John Muir, John Schwandt and John Pronos.