

USDA Forest Service

URBAN FOREST CONNECTIONS

webinar series

Second Wednesdays | 1:00 – 2:15 pm ET

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TREE RISK ASSESSMENTS: CUTTING EDGE SCIENCE MEETS PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS



Gregory Dahle

*Assistant Professor
West Virginia University*

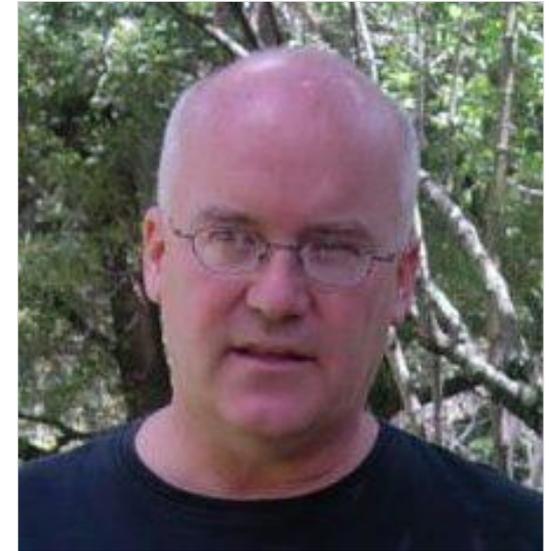
gregory.dahle@mail.wvu.edu



Andrew Koeser

*Assistant Professor
University of Florida Gulf Coast
Research & Education Center*

akoeser@ufl.edu



Mark Duntemann

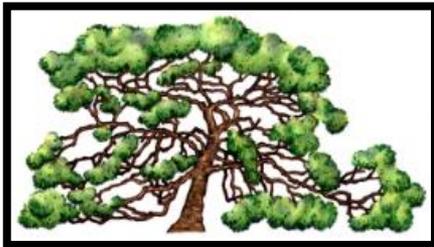
*Owner & Urban Forestry
Consultant
Natural Path Urban Forestry*

naturalpathforestry@gmail.com

Risk Assessment in Urban Settings

US Forest Service
Urban Forestry Webinar
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The Confluence of Risk Assessment and Risk Management



Mark Duntemann
Natural Path Urban Forestry



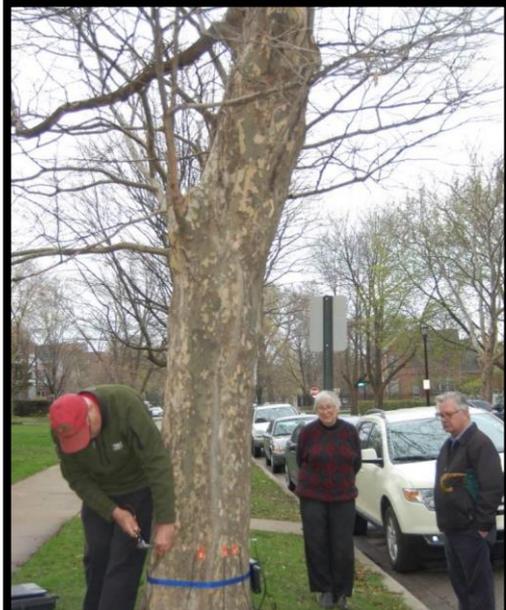
The Confluence of Risk Assessment and Risk Management

Risk Assessment is the technical process for:



- Evaluating what unexpected things could happen,
- How likely they are to occur, and
- The consequences if they were to occur.

The Confluence of Risk Assessment and Risk Management



A Tree Risk Assessment should result in the following outcomes:

1. An overall risk rating for the subject tree.
2. Mitigation options to address the risk identified.

The Confluence of Risk Assessment and Risk Management

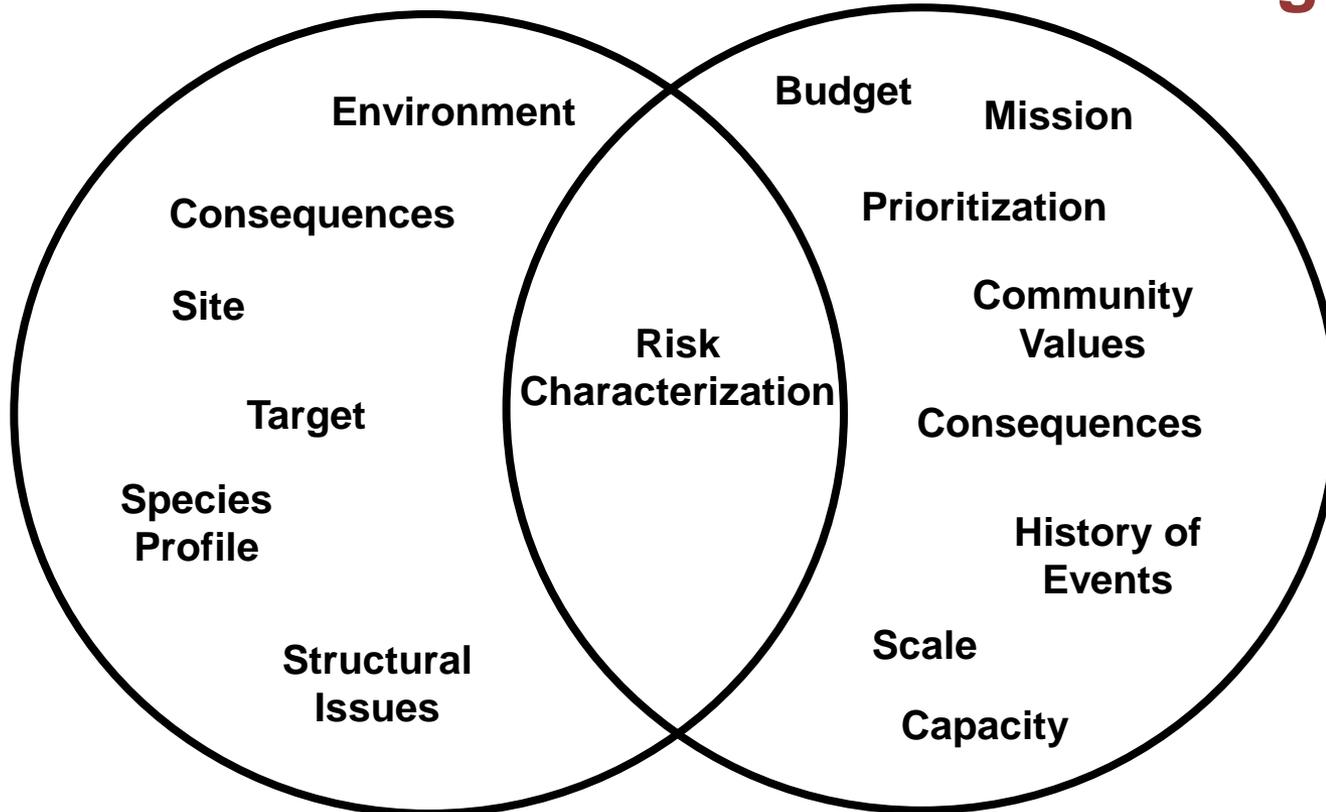
Risk Management is the process by which an agency or company assesses and monitors its risks and selects and implements measures to address those risks.



The Confluence of Risk Assessment and Risk Management

**Risk
Assessment**

**Risk
Management**



Risk Associated with Trees

Depends on the likelihood of two events typically happening at almost concurrent moments:

- The likelihood of a tree part failure (1) within a given time frame (2).
- If the part fails, the likelihood of striking a target (3).

Consequences

If the part fails and if a target is struck what are the potential consequences (4).



The Confluence of Assessment and Management in Litigation

1. A tree is viewed as a hazard in absolute terms. In other words, the subject tree was a hazard or not a hazard.



The risk associated with a tree is complex. Every single tree part has some potential to fail.

The Confluence of Assessment and Management in Litigation

2. The context of the non-subject trees are minimized.

The subject tree is not managed in a vacuum. Choices are made as part of a larger system. (Assessor vs Manager)



The Confluence of Assessment and Management in Litigation

3. A high inspection and maintenance rigor is assigned to the subject tree.



The resources required to achieve this level of rigor is, at times, unreasonable and impractical.

As Low as Reasonably Practical

