

# Hazard Tree and Wildlife Tree Awareness

Blue Collar Silviculture Ltd.

# Overview

- What is a wildlife tree?
- What is a dangerous tree?
- Potential Hazards
- Danger tree assessment video
- Wind speed indicators



# Wildlife Tree

- A wildlife tree is any standing dead or live tree with special characteristics that provide valuable habitat for wildlife.
- Characteristics of a high wildlife tree value are:
  - Internal decay (heartrot or natural/excavated cavities present)
  - A sound, firm stem shell
  - Crevices present (loose bark or cracks suitable for bats)
  - Large brooms present
  - Active or recent wildlife use (feeding, nesting, denning)
  - Tree structure suitable for wildlife use (suitable for large nest, hunting perch sites, bear den, etc.)
  - Largest trees for site (height and/or diameter) and veteran trees
  - Locally important wildlife tree species
  - Favourably located for use by wildlife



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Nest



Broom



Perch



Heartrot

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# Dangerous Tree

- A tree (live or dead, regardless of size) that is a hazard to a worker due to:
  - Its location or lean
  - Its physical damage
  - Overhead conditions
  - Deterioration of its limbs, stem, or root system
  - Any combination of the conditions above



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# Hazards of Dangerous Trees

- **Conks or mushrooms** - assume that heart rot conks are dangerous indicators of advanced internal decay. Mushrooms on the lower bole or roots of the tree might indicate root disease. Root damage or leaning tree – if more than 25% of the major support roots are lifted/rotten.
- **Dead limbs** - consider the size of the dead limbs (e.g. 10 cm for most species) and height above the ground. These are particularly dangerous where there are signs of weakness (e.g. visual sign of decay, cracking, sloughing or hanging). Witches' brooms – watch for large brooms (1 meter in bulk size) on weak, dead limbs.
- **Hazard top** - dead tops and secondary tops are particularly dangerous where there are visual signs of weakness (e.g. splits, cavities, shrubs growing out of forks, conks, signs of advanced rot). Snags with weak tops are also dangerous where 20% of the tree height is an unstable top.
- **Thick sloughing bark.**
- **Split trunk** - deep cracks with internal decay indicates serious weakness where tree could fail.

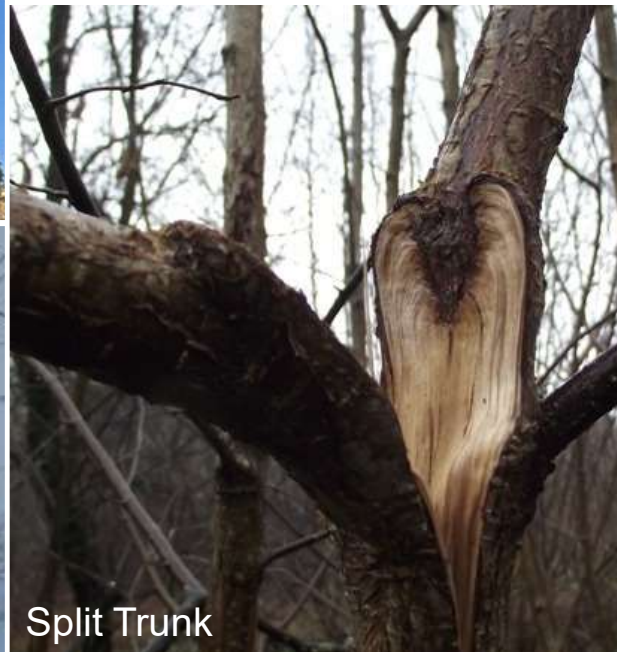


Broom



Conk

Dead Limb



Split Trunk



Hazard Top

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# Danger Tree Assessment

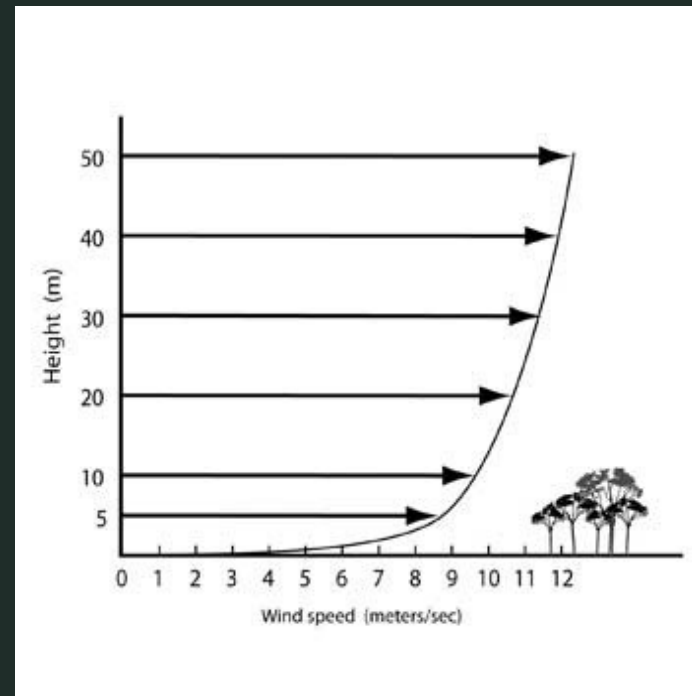


Video By: SAFER – Safety Advisory Foundation for Education & Research



# Wind



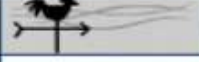










- Wind increases the risk of being struck by a hazard tree or a limb from a tree.
- When winds present a hazard, stay two tree lengths from trees or the tree line.
- Wind speed ALWAYS increases with increase in elevation.



## Wind Speed Indicators:

- **Low** (<10 km/hr): Leaves and small twigs in constant motion; wind extends light flag.
- **Moderate** (10-20km/hr, gusts >30km/hr): Small trees sway, maps/paper difficult to hold still.
- **High** (>20km/hr, gusts >40km/hr): Whole trees in motion, clouds moving rapidly, rain blowing sideways.
- If you can't tell, assume the wind is **high**.

# Beaufort Scale

Beaufort number	Wind Speed (mph)	Seaman's term		Effects on Land
0	Under 1	Calm		Calm; smoke rises vertically.
1	1-3	Light Air		Smoke drift indicates wind direction; vanes do not move.
2	4-7	Light Breeze		Wind felt on face; leaves rustle; vanes begin to move.
3	8-12	Gentle Breeze		Leaves, small twigs in constant motion; light flags extended.
4	13-18	Moderate Breeze		Dust, leaves and loose paper raised up; small branches move.
5	19-24	Fresh Breeze		Small trees begin to sway.
6	25-31	Strong Breeze		Large branches of trees in motion; whistling heard in wires.
7	32-38	Moderate Gale		Whole trees in motion; resistance felt in walking against the wind.
8	39-46	Fresh Gale		Twigs and small branches broken off trees.
9	47-54	Strong Gale		Slight structural damage occurs; slate blown from roofs.
10	55-63	Whole Gale		Seldom experienced on land; trees broken; structural damage occurs.
11	64-72	Storm		Very rarely experienced on land; usually with widespread damage.
12	73 or higher	Hurricane Force		Violence and destruction.



## For More Information Visit:

- BCFSC:  
<http://www.bcforestsafe.org/>
- WorkSafeBC:  
<https://www.worksafebc.com/en>
- SAFER: <http://www.safer.ca/>
- Fs502:  
<https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/isb/forms/lib/fs502.pdf>
- Wildlife/danger tree assessor course workbook:  
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