

## Tailgate Outline

<b>Date:</b>	
<b>Teaching Topic:</b>	Danger Tree Assessments (DTA)
<b>Type of Session:</b>	Tailgate Session
<b>Session Length:</b>	15 – 20 minutes
<b>Materials Required:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Computer, iPad/Tablet or TV with DVD player to show the SAFER video</li> <li>• The appropriate regulations and DT Assessment Handout as reference</li> </ul>
<b>Session Requirements:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Space of sufficient size to accommodate the size of the group</li> <li>• Instructor will need to take note of any unresolved questions and seek answers</li> </ul>
<b>Class Outline &amp; Suggested Times:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduce and explain the purpose of this module (1-2 minutes)</li> <li>2. Present video (7:34 minutes)</li> <li>3. Use Teaching notes to instigate discussion (5 minutes)</li> <li>4. Competency Evaluation (2 minutes)</li> <li>5. Closing remarks (1 minute)</li> </ol>

## Detailed Outline

<p><b>1. Introduce and explain purpose of the module</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emphasizes the importance of getting to know your area and identifying dangerous trees.</li> <li>• Provides information about the process for identifying and managing dangerous trees</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. Present Video</b></p>	
<p><b>3. Open up Discussion, using the following as a guide</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the difference between a Wildlife tree and a Dangerous tree?</li> <li>• What are 3 things to keep in mind when dealing with leaning trees?</li> <li>• When have you had to set-up a No Work Zone? How big should it be and what colour of flagging should you use?</li> <li>• Discuss the 4 steps of Danger Tree Assessment.</li> <li>• Think about any activities you are currently doing that could be turning safe trees into dangerous trees. What can you do to remedy this?</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. Competency Evaluation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• List and explain a misconception you had prior to watching this video.</li> <li>• Name one dangerous tree indicator that watching this video reminded you of.</li> </ul>
<p><b>5. Closing Remarks</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reminder: it can be your activities that change a tree from being safe to dangerous.</li> <li>• Be on the look-out for hazard indicators; don't assume a suspect tree was assessed. If unsure, ask for an assessment.</li> <li>• Avoid exposure to a potentially dangerous tree. Manage it with a NWZ if unable to have the tree assessed or felled. Your safety and those you work with is important</li> </ul>

## Appendix 1: Danger Tree Assessment FACILIATOR NOTES

### KEY THEME:

This video emphasizes the importance of getting to know your block and identifying dangerous trees that pose a threat to you or fellow workers. It gives information on how to identify dangerous trees and then what actions are required to manage these dangerous trees.

### VIDEO NARRATIVE NOTES:

The assessment and management of dangerous trees is governed by regulation. If workers are likely to be exposed to a dangerous tree, either the tree is removed or the tree is assessed by qualified and certified persons.

Snags are not always dangerous trees, and living trees are not always safe trees. You need to look at live and dead trees for the subtle hazard indicators that may threaten worker safety.

### Wildlife Tree and Dangerous Tree:

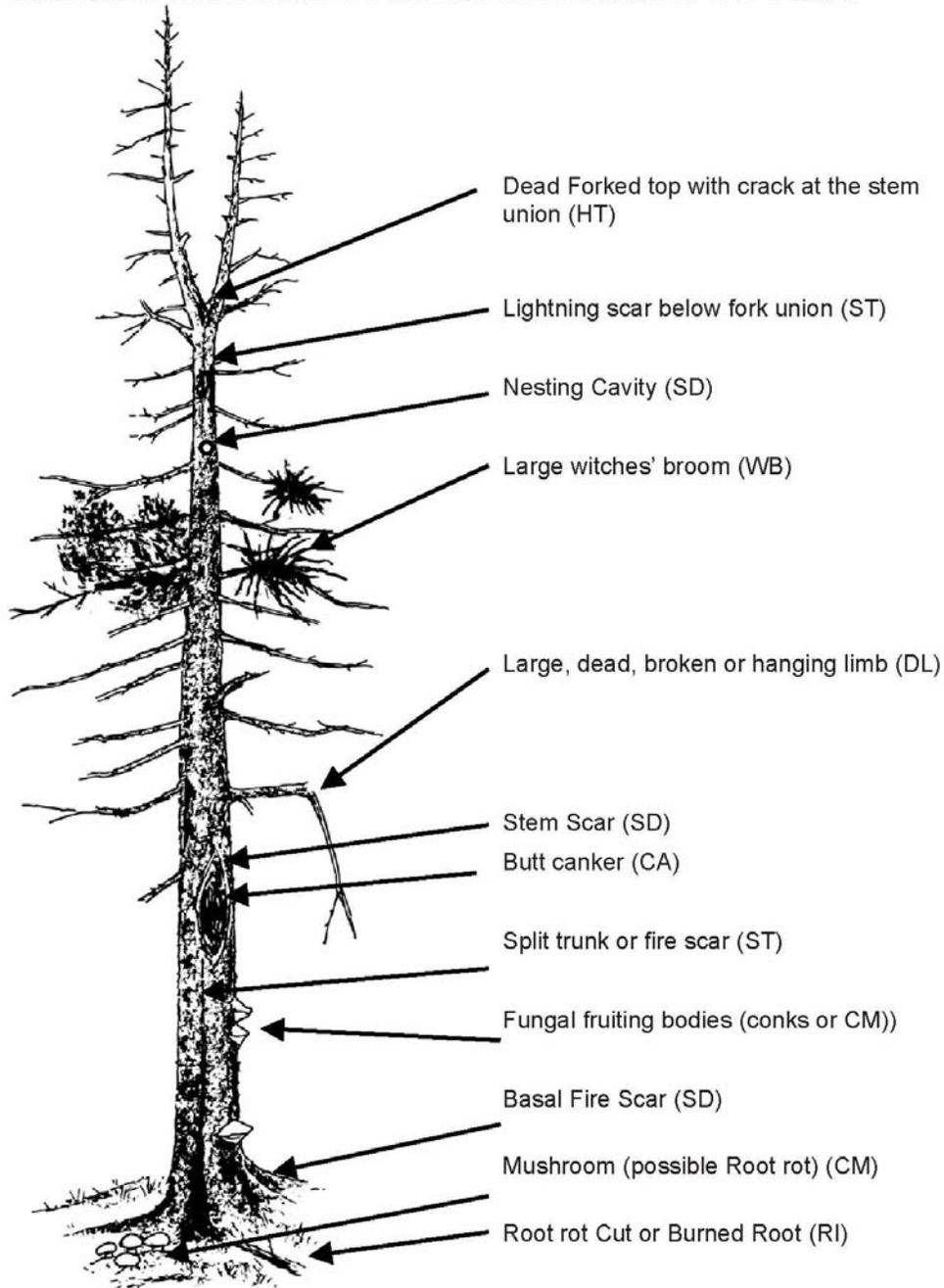
It is important to know the distinction between a wildlife tree and a dangerous tree.

1. *Wildlife tree*: any standing, dead or live tree, with special characteristics that provide habitat for wildlife. Some wildlife trees are protected by the Wildlife Act (e.g., eagle nests).
2. *Dangerous tree*: a tree that is a hazard to a worker due to: its location or lean, physical damage, overhead conditions, deterioration or any combination of these (*OHS Regulation 26.1*).

### 2 important elements of dangerous trees:

1. *Hazard posed*: this includes the location of the tree, its lean, physical damage, overhead conditions, deterioration of limbs, stem or roots system or a combination of all of these factors.
  - Conks on the stem: “White fungus” (*Fomitopsis pinicola*) think of it as a composting fungus; conks are an indicator of decay in a tree.
  - Buttress at the base of the tree: look at the root system inside the drip zone; if butt rot exists (e.g., you see the fungus, or the stem sounds hollow when tapped with your axe), you can anticipate that the inside of the tree has a cone-shaped column of rot;.
  - Root rot pockets: If you notice a patch of snags and see thick understory in what otherwise should have been a stand of tall trees, look for root rot clues. These may include: dying tree tops, random orientation of fallen trees with rotten roots, heavy sap-sucker feeding, extensive resin flow on base of the tree, visually rotten roots.
  - Trees with root or butt rot can easily topple over during a windy event. Adjust your work by considering wind. When falling but rotten trees, consider a higher stump (less decay).
2. *Exposure to people*: If the hazardous part of the tree is within reach of workers then we have to manage the tree as a dangerous tree. This is why it’s important to create a No Work Zone (NWZ) if you identify a dangerous tree – keep people away from the tree (until the tree can be properly assessed, felled, or to ensure workers are a safe distance from the tree).

Generalized Tree Defects or Indicators Which Influence Tree Failure



**No Work Zones (NWZ):** A flagged area that will keep workers away from an identified dangerous tree. This area needs to be large enough to protect the workers and therefore cover any area of

ground that could be reached by any portion of the tree (NWZ's are typically 1.5 times the length of the defect). On steep ground, this NWZ will extend further downhill.

**Site Assessment Overview:** take the time to look around and see what you can learn. Look at and recognize hazards. Once you've identified hazards, it is imperative to adjust your work plan in order to account for these observations.

**Leaning trees:** Be sure to take a close look at leaning trees.

- Recognize leaners as a possible hazard,
- Assess the root plate to understand why it's leaning, and if it's safe,
- Consider adjusting the boundary to capture the tree or exclude it with a NWZ.
- If the root system of a leaning tree is interconnected to nearby trees, the group acts as a unit. If you cut one tree, cut them all; if you leave one tree, leave them all.

**Damage to a tree's structural root system:** Our activities can sometimes turn a safe tree into an unsafe tree. If the root system is broken, the tree may now be a dangerous tree. Consider the drip-line of trees – look at the longest branch, draw an invisible line down to the ground. Within the drip-line are majority of the tree's structural root system (which are holding up the tree). Any damage within this zone may turn a safe tree into a dangerous tree.

**The 4 key steps of Danger Tree Assessment:** To ensure dangerous trees are properly assessed and managed, there are four steps that must be taken.

1. Site assessment overview: conduct a site assessment overview and confirm the level of disturbance (LOD) and health factors that may affect the stability of trees.
2. Look for suspect tree by conducting visual tree inspections: use your knowledge to look for the most common and dangerous tree defects.
3. Make a decision based on the tree assessment. Determine if the tree is safe or dangerous.
4. Document and communicate to crew that:
  - a) You have done the assessment and hazards are controlled, or
  - b) You have communicated what needs to be done to make the site safe.

#### **Closing Remarks:**

As a take-away, don't assume others have found and managed all dangerous trees. If you see a possible hazard, go and investigate. If unsure, ask for an assessment of the tree and follow the safety recommendations for that tree. Your safety is important.

Additional training is available – ask your supervisor if you would like to know more about how to recognize, assess and manage dangerous trees.

#### **Training:**

Full certification as an assessor: visit the UNBC Continuing Studies website for the Wildlife/Dangerous Tree Assessor Certification (WDTAC) courses: <http://www.unbc.ca/continuing-studies/wildlife-danger-tree>

Awareness and qualified person training: "Managing DT's in Your Workplace" by Dean McGeough;  
Contact: [deanmcg@shaw.ca](mailto:deanmcg@shaw.ca) or 250-642-2666 for further information.

**Disclaimer:** This video and training session is for information only; it does NOT certify participants as a wildlife dangerous tree assessor. As required by regulation, a person wishing to become certified to perform dangerous tree assessments must take and successfully pass a WDTAC course.