

HAZARD ALERT

TREE MAINTENANCE

24 February 2012

REFERENCE:

CSH&WSA Document No. 14 – Hazard Management Procedure

OBJECTIVE:

To ensure worksites are aware of the dangers associated with falling tree branches

BACKGROUND:

A private school outside the Catholic Church Licence has recently been prosecuted as a result of a tree branch falling resulting in 3 people being severely injured.

Recently we have had two incidents at our sites where tree branches have fallen, however no one was injured.

PREVENTATIVE ACTIONS:

- Identify any tree at your site that has the potential to drop a branch that may cause an injury to any person.
- Complete a documented risk assessment on any identified tree that may require the services of an Arborist.

➤ Issues to look for:

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| ▪ Have any branches fallen from the tree? | ▪ Do many of the major branches arise from one point on the trunk? |
| ▪ Are there large dead branches in the tree? | ▪ Have the roots been broken off, injured, or damaged by lowering the soil level, installing pavement, repairing sidewalks, or digging trenches? |
| ▪ Are there detached branches hanging in the tree? | ▪ Has the site recently been changed by construction, raising the soil level, or installing lawns? |
| ▪ Does the tree have cavities or rotten wood along the trunk or in major branches? | ▪ Have the leaves prematurely developed an unusual colour or size? |
| ▪ Are mushrooms present at the base of the tree? | ▪ Have trees in adjacent wooded areas been removed? |
| ▪ Are there cracks or splits in the trunk or where branches are attached? | ▪ Has the tree been topped or otherwise heavily pruned? |
| ▪ Have adjacent trees fallen over or died? | |
| ▪ Has the trunk developed a strong lean? | |

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- If any tree/s has been identified as hazardous enlist the services of an Arborist to inspect the tree/s and provide a written report and thereafter once every twelve months have the Arborist inspect and provide a written reports.
 - Ensure the Workplace Inspection Checklist has been modified to incorporate the checking of trees if applicable to your site.
 - Inform staff to be aware of, and report, any suspect looking tree branches.

FUTHER INFORMATION:

- Contact your OHS Consultant at Catholic Safety Health & Welfare SA (8210 9342) if you require further information and/or assistance.
- The state government is proposing a number of changes to the regulations for significant trees. Please refer to the CSH&WSA website at <http://cshwsa.org.au/Home.aspx> and click on Resources then Articles.