

A healthy tree that received regular care is less likely to become hazardous than one that is ignored. Preventive maintenance may reduce risks that may lead to hazardous conditions. Maintenance measures include the removal of dead and broken branches as well as regular care by a qualified Tree Care Professional.

Evaluating trees for potential hazardous conditions requires careful assessment by an ISA Certified Arborist who is a Qualified Tree Risk Assessor. Defects may not be readily apparent because decay or structural damage may be internal. Poor tree health may also not be reflected in the structure of a tree.

The following list provides some potential indicators that may alert a property owner to potential hazards. Property owners should contact an ISA Certified Arborist to provide a professional assessment of any conditions they are concerned about. The Arborist may also provide recommendations to reduce any potential hazards and to avert a tree failure and liability.

- Target-if the tree falls, could it hit people or property? (cars, power lines, homes, etc.)
- Is the tree dead or does it have many dead branches?
- Has the tree recently dropped large branches?
- Are there deep or open cracks, hollows, or dead spots in the trunk or branches, or below joining stems?
- Are there fungus fruit bodies growing on trunk or branches?
- Is the tree leaning?
- Have neighbouring trees recently been removed, exposing the tree to new impacts from wind?
- Has the tree been topped?
- Has the tree suffered damage in a recent storm such as broken branches, split trunks or injured roots?
- Are there mushrooms growing near the trunk and roots?
- Have roots been injured by construction?

Additional information about Tree Risks can be found here: [Recognizing Tree Risk](#)

For more information, contact

Operations/Forestry: 905.668.3437 / pw.operations@whitby.ca
Planning and Development: 905.430.4306 / planning@whitby.ca

