



International Tree Failure Database (ITFD)

John Pronos
Plant Pathologist
Forest Health Protection
Stanislaus National Forest

HISTORY OF TREE FAILURE DATABASES

- 1960s to 1970s – Dr. Lee Paine, Pacific Southwest Research Station, Berkeley
 - Thousands of reports from U.S
 - Used to develop first programs to manage hazard trees
- 1987 – California Tree Failure Reporting Program
 - Dr. L. R. Costello, Univ. CA Coop. Extension
 - Dr. Alison Berry, UC-Davis, Environmental Hort.
- 2002 – ISA-PNW Chapter

International Tree Failure Database (ITFD)

-BACKGROUND-

- Planning began in January, 2003
- Group of Forest Health Protection (FHP) pathologists and International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) arborists
- ITFD modeled after California Tree Failure Reporting Program (CTFRP)

Key Points - ITFD

- Collect info to characterize why and which trees fail
- Will include trees on lands of all ownership
- Use one form for all failures
- Voluntary program
- FHP will coordinate with federal and state agencies
- ISA will coordinate with governments at county level and below, plus the private sector

Key Points - ITFD

- Submit tree failure data via internet
- Must be a trained cooperator to submit data
- Reports and database available to all
- Currently (11/2004) 350 cooperators
- Will add CTFRP and PNW-ISA members
- <http://ftcweb.fs.fed.us/natfdb>



Welcome to the International Tree Failure Database(ITFD)

The ITFD application has an internet based form for collecting important information about trees that have failed structurally. Perhaps the most significant component of the ITFD is the output reports. When the database has received a number of data entry forms for a geographic area, reports will be generated. Over time this data will reveal the characteristics of trees that fail and improve our ability to predict future failures.

To access the on line ITFD form, click the 'login' tab above. Existing users will enter their login name and password to begin a new form. For new users, completion of training is strongly recommended prior to obtaining a username and password. A list of training sessions is provided under the 'help' tab.

The ITFD was designed and developed with our initial emphasis on North America. Although it can be used for data collection and reporting of fallen trees outside of North America, the species list and a few other fields may require minor modification. If you are interested in using this application outside of North America, we encourage you to email or call for further information.

For questions or further assistance, please email itfd

When you are finished entering records, you can [Click Here](#) to logout of ITFD.

(Note: Your browsers back button may be disabled at times to prevent losing data.)

International Tree Failure Report Form

North American Tree Failure Report Form

Tree Genus* _____ Date of Report: _____
 Species* _____ Tree/Site Ownership: Private Utility Other or unknown
 Cultivar _____ Fed./Nat.: NFS BIA BLM DOD NPS Utility
 Country* _____ State/Province County Municipal
 State/Province* _____ Address/Site name _____
 County _____ GPS: Latitude _____ Longitude _____

Failure Type* (select one)

Trunk (main stem) failure

Height of failure above grade* _____ ft.
 Dia. at break (inside bark)* _____ in.

DEFECTS ASSOCIATED WITH FAILURE

- None Can't determine
 Failed portion dead
 Decay Canker Species: _____
 Multiple trunks/codominant stems
 Dense crown One-sidedness
 Low live crown ratio
 Included bark
 Bow Crook Sweep
 Uncorrected lean
 Cracks: Vertical Horizontal
 Lightning injury
 Fire injury Insect injury
 Mechanical injury Girdling

LOCATION OF DECAY

Heartwood
 Ave sound wood thickness _____ in.
 Trunk opening (cavity) at failure No
 Yes, opening _____ % of trunk circ.

Sapwood
 Ave. depth of rot _____ in.
 Circumference rotted _____ %

TYPE OF DECAY

- White rot Canker rot
 Brown rot Don't know
 Conks/mushrooms/other signs No
 Yes Name: _____

Distance from conk to failure: _____ ft.

PRUNING HISTORY

- No pruning
 Topping of main stem (head cuts)
 Dia. of stub at cut _____ in.
 Reduction/Directional pruning
 Proper Excessive
 Thinning cuts
 Proper Excessive
 Crown raised _____ % of tree height

HARDWARE

- None
 Cable Intact Failed
 Guying Intact Failed
 Prop Intact Failed
 Brace/bolt Intact Failed
 Girdling hardware
 Other device

Branch failure

Dia. at break (inside bark)* _____ in.
 Total length failed branch* _____ ft.

Break at attachment* Yes No

If no, distance from the attachment to break: _____ feet

DEFECTS ASSOCIATED WITH FAILURE

- None Can't determine
 Failed portion dead
 Decay Dense crown
 Heavy lateral limbs/Heavy ends
 Included bark Crook
 Failed portion is an epicormic branch
 Cracks (in wood)
 Mistletoe or epiphyte
 Mechanical injury Lightning injury
 Insect injury Animal injury
 Canker/Gall

LOCATION OF DECAY

Heartwood
 Ave sound wood thickness _____ inches
 Opening (cavity) at failure? No
 Yes, opening _____ % of branch circ.

Sapwood
 Ave. depth of rot _____ inches
 Circumference rotted _____ %

TYPE OF DECAY

- White rot Canker rot
 Brown rot Don't know
 Conks/mushrooms/other signs No
 Yes Name: _____

Distance from conk to failure: _____ ft.

PRUNING HISTORY

- No pruning
 Topping of branches (heading cuts)
 Dia. of stub at cut _____ inches
 Thinning cuts (lateral branches)
 Proper Flush cuts
 Lion-tailing
 Reduction/Directional pruning

HARDWARE on failed branch

- None
 Cable Intact Failed
 Guying Intact Failed
 Prop Intact Failed
 Brace/bolt Intact Failed
 Girdling hardware
 Other device

Root failure

PREDOMINANT SITE/SOIL CONDITIONS

- Soil texture: Sand Loam
 Clay Rock/gravel Unknown
 Soil moisture at time of failure: Dry
 Saturated Moist Unknown
 Restricted rooting depth due to:
 Poor drainage High water table
 Shallow or layered soil
 Compaction Other
 Soil eroded (roots undermined)
 Fill soil against trunk or planted too deep
 Depth of excess soil _____ in.
 Well surrounds trunk

DESCRIPTION OF FAILURE*

- Roots broken
 Dia. of largest broken root _____ in.
 Distance from break to trunk _____ in.
 Condition of broken roots: Unknown
 Dead, no decay Decayed
 Live, no decay

Root plate lifted out of ground
 Root plate radius _____ feet.
 Root plate depth _____ inches.

DEFECTS ASSOCIATED WITH FAILURE

- None Can't determine
 Fire scar Low live crown ratio
 Basal wound Corrected lean (sweep)
 Uncorrected lean
 Cracks in trunk prior to failure
 Surface roots or root collar wounded
 Roots cut/saved (not decayed or broken)
 Dia. of largest root at cut _____ in.
 Distance from trunk to cut _____ ft.
 % of roots cut _____

- Roots restricted due to:
 Container Root barrier
 Sidewalk/curb Wall/foundation
 Natural feature Other
 Distance from trunk to restriction _____ ft.
 % of root zone restricted _____
 Root collar girdled No
 Yes % circumference girdled _____

ROOT DECAY

% of roots decayed _____
 Conks/mushrooms/other signs No
 Yes Name: _____

Ave. sound wood thickness _____ inch
 Type: White rot Brown rot Don't know

- SURFACE TREATMENT**
 Mulch Bare soil Pavement
 Ground cover Gravel/rock Turf
 Natural forest litter Other

IRRIGATION

- Never Infrequent Frequent

TREE FAILURE DETAILS

Tree Age _____ years **DBH*** _____ inches Height _____ feet

Whole tree Dead Alive Crown declining: Yes No

Habitat Information

- Trees recently removed in the vicinity of the failed tree:
 Yes No Don't Know
- History of prior failures at site
 Yes No
- Tree stand density:
 High
 Medium
 Low
 In the open
 In a row
- Setting
 Yard/Garden
 Street tree
 Park
 Golf course
 Parking lot
 Campground
 Picnic area
 Trailhead
 Other developed forest site
 Commercial site / Institution
 Utility right-of-way
 Highway right-of-way
 Forest
- Aspect
 N NE
 E SE
 S SW
 W NW
 Not applicable/Flat
- Site has been recently altered:
 Yes No
- Slope (degrees):
 No slope <5
 5-15 15-30
 30-45 >45

Date/Time of Failure*

Date of failure (Mo/Day/Yr): _____ Season of failure: Spring Summer
 Fall Winter Year _____
 Time of failure hour a.m. p.m. unknown **OR** _____

Weather and Other Forces at Time of Failure

Unknown Temperature (approx.) _____ °F
 Wind speed (approx.) _____ mph Precipitation: none rain snow ice unknown

Cause/Result of Tree Failure

Why did this failure occur?

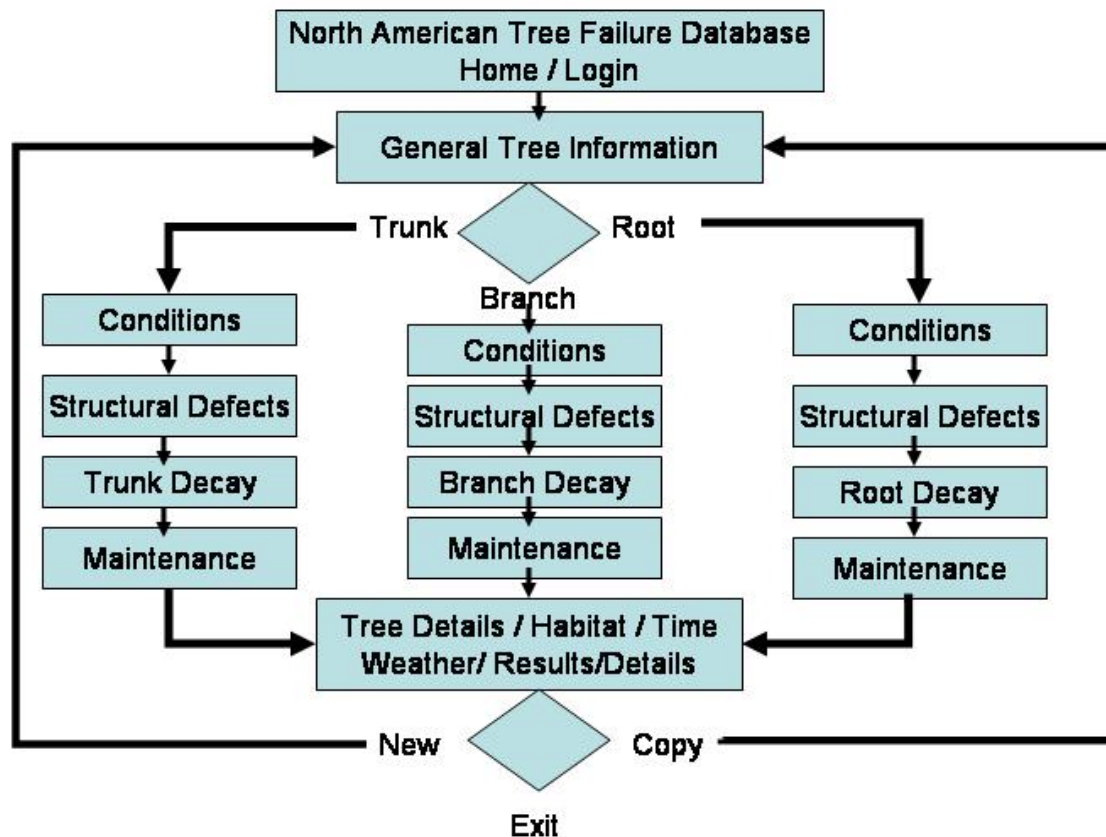
Were the defects associated with failure visible before the tree failed? Yes No Don't know

Result of tree failure Fire Power outage Property damage Personal injury Other None
 Property damage estimate \$ _____ (US) Cleanup costs \$ _____ (US) If personal injury, describe below.
 Additional Comments (injury, target, damage, etc.)

Cooperator name _____
 * Required field Please enter data at <http://stdpweb.fs.fed.us/natfdb/> NATFD Field Form Revised 12/17/03

International Tree Failure Database Flowchart

ITFD data entry procedure



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SURFACE TREATMENT

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 Campground
 Picnic area
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 Commercial site / Institution
 Utility right-of-way
 Highway right-of-way
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- Aspect
 N NE
 E SE
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 W NW
 Not applicable/Flat
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Additional Comments (injury, target, damage, etc.)

Cooperator name _____

* Required field

Please enter data at <http://stdpweb.fs.fed.us/natfdb/>

NATFD Field Form Revised 12/17/03



- 1 General Tree Info
- 2 Failure Type
- 3 Failure Specifics
- 4 Structural Defects
- 5 Decay or Injury
- 6 Maintenance History
- 7 Tree Failure Details
- 8 Weather Conditions
- 9 Comments & Save

General Tree Info

1

Switch to Metric Data Entry

Tree Genus* (* is Required)

Species *

Cultivar

Country *

State/Province *

County

DBH *

inches

Height

feet

Tree age

years

United States Site/Tree Ownership

Federal/National

Federal Type ---->

NFS

BIA

BLM

DOD

NPS

Other

Private

Utility

Other or unknown

State/Province

County

Municipal

Forest Service Region

--Select One-- ▾

Forest Name

Ranger District Name

National Park Service

Campground Name

**Latitude (Decimal
Degrees,NAD83)**

**Longitude (Decimal
Degrees,NAD83)**

[\(Link to convert from degrees.minutes.seconds to decimal degrees\)](#)

Additional description of site location (e.g. Park name, street address)

* = required information. Completion required before proceeding to next page.

International Tree Failure Database

- **Web Site & Database Manager** = Judy Adams, FHTET, Fort Collins, CO
- **FHP Contacts:**
 - R-1/4 = John Schwandt, Coeur d'Alene, ID
 - R-2 = Jim Worrall, Gunnison, CO
 - R-3 = Mary Lou Fairweather, Flagstaff, AZ
 - R-5 = John Pronos, Sonora, CA
 - R-6 = Diane Hildebrand, Portland, OR
 - R-8 = William Jones, Asheville, NC
 - R-9 = Joe O'Brien, St. Paul, MN
 - R-10 = Paul Hennon, Juneau, AK

International Tree Failure Database

- For more information or to express an interest in training to become a cooperater:

— jpronos@fs.fed.us

— (209) 532-3671 x242

— <http://ftcweb.fs.fed.us/natfdb>