

BREAKTIME

University of California
Cooperative Extension

The Newsletter of the California Tree Failure Report Program
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ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 7, 1999

Reserve **Thursday, January 7, 1999** for the CTFRP Annual Meeting. We will return to FILOLI Center in Woodside for a full day of topics relevant to tree failures and hazardous tree management. Registration forms were sent to all cooperators in November. Call 650-726-9059 for more information.

REPORT COUNT

As of November 30, 1998 we have 2329 reports in the data base. This year we've received 152 reports which is better than last year, but still below average. December is the month when the greatest number of tree failures are reported. If you use the enclosed report forms and document at least two, 1998 still could be a high count year. We'll be awarding prizes again at the Annual Meeting for the greatest number of reports submitted by individuals in various categories. Last year's winners were:

Consulting and Academic: **Doug Hamilton**
Commercial: **Jack Gianelli**
Municipal: **San Francisco Parks Dept.**

FROM THE DATABASE

There have been **2329** reports received to date. Almost three quarters of all reports came from the 9 San Francisco Bay Area counties (1730). This year, Eucalyptus globulus edged out Quercus lobata in the number 4 position of the most commonly reported species.

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|-------------------------|-------|
| 1. Pinus radiata | 14% |
| 2. Cupressus macrocarpa | 12.8% |
| 3. Quercus agrifolia | 8.9% |
| 4. Eucalyptus globulus | 5.3% |
| 5. Quercus lobata | 4.7% |

What is the most common **location of failure**?

Trunk	638 (27.4%)
Branch	867 (37.2%)
Root	820 (35.2%)

Is it possible that branch failures are being under-reported? Put a report form in your pocket in the morning and fill it in on site.....we don't care if it comes in folded and dirty!

What are the most common **structural defects** associated with failures?

The top four structural defects account for over 50% of all defects reported.

(19%) **heavy lateral limbs** (reported in 17% of all branch failures and less than 2% of trunk and root failures)

(14%) **multiple trunk/codominant stems** (reported in 7% of trunk failures, 4% in branch and 3% in root failures)

(10%) **dense crown** (reported in 5% of root failures and less than 3% in trunk and branch failures.

(9%) **failed portion dead** (reported in 4% of trunk and root failures and 1% of branch failures)

No structural defects were reported in 10% of all cases.

In one quarter of all failures reported, the trees were between **26 and 50 years old**. We have 35 reports on trees over 200 years old and 114 reports on trees under 10 years old.

Where are the trees located and what's going on nearby? Primarily, they are in parks (39%), residential areas (25%) and along streets (11%). **High human activity** near the tree was reported in 46% of all cases.

How much does a failure cost? 55% of the reports to date include an estimate of costs. The means are:

Trunk	\$1634.00
Branch	\$ 571.00
Root	\$3200.00

The **California Tree Failure Report Program** exists in order to provide you with information about tree failures. The data base is limited and inferences derived from the data should be made with caution, but if you have a question about the data, we will try to answer it. For example, in May 1998 there was a request for an analysis of the data on *Eucalyptus sideroxylon*. The following is a summary of the results.

There were 2311 reports in the data base at the time and 53 of those were *Eucalyptus sideroxylon*.

LOCATION of FAILURE

<u>E. sideroxylon (53)</u>	<u>All cases (2329) Nov. 98</u>
Trunk 18 (34%)	Trunk 638 (27.4%)
Branch 34 (64%)	Branch 867 (37.2%)
Root 1 (2%)	Root 820 (35.2%)

Decay and a dense crown were associated with the one root failure. **Less than 25% or no decay** was associated with 15 trunk failures and 33 branch failures.

The most common structural defects associated with the branch failures were **heavy lateral limbs (10)** and **embedded bark (8)**.

The most common structural defects associated with the trunk failures were **heavy lateral limbs (4)** and **multiple trunks (4)** There was one report each for all of the other defects.

No precipitation was noted in the case of 15 branch and 8 trunk failures.

Wind was a factor in all reported cases. Over 25mph (27) 5-25mph (13) below 5mph (7). Wind was unreported in 6 cases.

All of the trees were **under 50 years old**. 49% were in the 11-25 year age group.

81% of the failures were in locations considered to be **medium to high human use**.

If you have a **CTFRP Training Video** and have forgotten to return it, please do it now. Our supply is dwindling!

The return envelopes and report forms list a UC Davis address, but it is also fine to send mail to us at:

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U.S. Department of Agriculture, University of California, and San Mateo & San Francisco Counties Cooperating