

The Newsletter of the California Tree Failure Report Program
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REPORT COUNT

As of August, 1997, we have 2,124 reports in the database. This is the good news. The bad news is that we have had fewer reports submitted in 1997 than any year in the last 10 years!!! In 1987 we had 97 reports submitted, while in 1997 only 47 have been sent in. The best year was 1995 with 447 reports.

Clearly, we need to pick up the pace. A large number of failures are going unreported. For the CTFRP database to be of greatest value to arboriculture professionals, please make a commitment to the program and fill out the forms. Just 4 reports per year from each cooperator will generate over 500 reports!!!! This would exceed our best year on record.

In an effort to increase report submittals, we are introducing two new aspects to the program: 1) we are setting a goal: "**5000 by 2000**", and 2) **rewards for cooperators** who submit the greatest number of reports in a year.

5000 by 2000

We want to have 5000 reports in the database by the year 2000. This is our goal. Can we reach it? Definitely!!! --- especially if El Nino lives up to its billing. Even in "average" years, however, we have more than enough tree failures in California to add 1,000 failures to the database. If each cooperator (you) completes a report for just half the failures encountered, we will have more than enough. Please renew your commitment to making this program a success and take the time to fill out reports.

Rewards for Cooperators

As a way to recognize individuals who have submitted the greatest number of reports in a year, we will award prizes at the Annual Meeting in the following categories: 1) municipal, 2) commercial, 3) utility, and 4) consulting and academic. An

arboriculture publication of choice will be awarded to the winner in each category. Publications will include books by Harris, Shigo, Mattheck, Gilman, Blair, Craul, Watson, etc. Reports will be counted for the period from Jan. 1, 1997 to Dec. 31, 1997.

Go for it!!!!

ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR JANUARY 8, 1998

Please mark your calendars for Thursday, Jan. 8, 1998, for the CTFRP Annual Meeting. We will return to the Filoli Center in Woodside for a full day of topics relevant to tree failures and hazardous tree management. Registration forms will be sent to all cooperators in October.

CTFRP ON THE WEB

Visit the CTFRP on the internet at <http://treefail.ucdavis.edu>. This site is a work in progress. So far, you can get information about the program, read past issues of Breaktime, enter new data, link to other sites such as ISA and the US Forest Service web pages. "Failure of the Month" is coming up soon. Click on "Tree Failure Forum" and let us know what you think!

NATIONAL PROGRAM

Interest in developing a tree failure program at the national or international level is still high, but funding sources are proving elusive. Grant proposals have been submitted to three funding sources over the past year and only one has provided partial support. There is still a possibility that one source will support a national program and we remain hopeful. In the interim, all efforts will be focused on increasing report totals for the CTFRP.

FROM THE DATABASE

Genera with more than 300 reports: Pinus (457), Quercus (368), Eucalyptus (311), and Cupressus (305).

Genera with more than 50 reports: Acacia (92), Fraxinus (57), Ulmus (78).

The "mean" tree failure: the mean tree that fails is 61 years old and 56 feet tall, with a 38 foot crown spread and 30 inch DBH. What the rest of this tree looks like is unknown, but it has a very bad temper.

Key defects associated with failures: heavy lateral limbs (427 cases), multiple trunks and codominant stems (299), dense crown (214), and failed portion dead (187). In 219 cases, **no defects** were reported to be associated with the failure.

Month of failure: December (501) and January (299) continue to lead all other months for failures. Following are March (218), February (183), and November (156). Get your report forms ready ---- failure season is coming up!!!

**IF YOU NEED FORMS OR ENVELOPES, PLEASE CALL
KATHERINE JONES AT 650-726-9059**

5000 by 2000!!!

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~Breaktime~

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