

Guide to Hazard Rating Codes

Municipal Forestry Rating Guide

PROBABILITY OF FAILURE: 1-4 points

1. **Low:** some minor defects present:
 - minor branch/crown dieback
 - minor defects or wounds
2. **Moderate:** one to several moderate defects present:
 - stem decay or cavity within safe shell limits: shell thickness >1 inch of sound wood for each 6 inches of stem diameter
 - crack(s) without extensive decay
 - defect(s) affecting 30 to 40 percent of the tree's circumference
 - crown damage/breakage: hardwoods up to 50 percent; pines up to 30 percent
 - weak branch union: major branch or codominant stem has included bark
 - stem girdling roots: <40 percent tree's circumference with compressed wood
 - root damage: <40 percent of roots damaged within the CRR
3. **High:** multiple or significant defects present:
 - stem decay or cavity at or exceeding shell safety limits: shell thickness < 1 inch of sound wood for each 6 inches of stem diameter
 - cracks, particularly those in contact with the soil or associated with other defects
 - defect(s) affecting >40 percent of the tree's circumference
 - crown damage/breakage: hardwoods >50 percent; pines >30 percent
 - weak branch union with crack or decay
 - girdling roots with >40 percent of tree's circumference with compressed wood
 - root damage: >40 percent of roots damaged within the CRR
 - leaning tree with recent root breakage or soil mounding, crack or extensive decay
 - dead tree: standing dead without other significant defects
4. **Extremely High:** multiple and significant defects present; visual obstruction of traffic signs/lights or intersections:
 - stem decay or cavity exceeding shell safety limits and severe crack
 - cracks: when a stem or branch is split in half
 - defect(s) affecting >40 percent of the tree's circumference or CRR and extensive decay or crack(s)
 - weak branch union with crack and decay
 - leaning tree with recent root breakage or soil mounding and a crack or extensive decay
 - dead branches: broken (hangers) or with a crack
 - dead trees: standing dead with other defects such as cracks, hangers, extensive decay, or major root damage
 - visual obstruction of traffic signs/lights or intersections
 - physical obstruction of pedestrian or vehicular traffic

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SIZE OF DEFECTIVE PART (S): 1-3 points

1. Parts less than 4 inches in diameter
2. Parts from 4 to 20 inches in diameter
3. Parts greater than 20 inches in diameter

PROBABILITY OF TARGET IMPACT: 1-3 points

1. Occasional Use:
 - Low use roadways (i.e. dead end roads, turnarounds, etc)
2. Intermittent Use:
 - Roadway intersections in high use areas; parking lots adjacent to moderate-low use areas.
3. Frequent Use:
 - High use park and play areas; all buildings and residences; schools specially marked handicap-access areas; and parking lots adjacent to high use areas.

OTHER RISK FACTORS: 0-2 points

- This category can be used if professional judgment suggests the need to increase the risk rating
- It is especially helpful to use when tree species growth characteristics become a factor in risk rating. For example, some tree species have growth patterns that make them more vulnerable to certain defects such as weak branch unions (silver maple) and branching shedding (beech)
- It can also be used if the tree is likely to fail before the next scheduled risk inspection
 - For example, some risk assessment surveyors will use species as a guide to establish a rating in this category.
 0. Durable Species Not Prone To Failure (ex. Red Oak, Sugar Maple, etc.)
 1. Average Species Moderate Strength
 2. Weak Species Prone To Failure (ex. Poplar, Willow, White Pine, etc.)

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<i>DEFECT CODES</i>		<i>CORRECTIVE ACTION(S) CODES</i>	
Code	Defect	Code	Defect
D	Decay	Prune	
CR	Crack	PD	Deadwood
Root Problems		PW	Weakwood (defective part(s))
RSG	Stem Girdling	PC	For Clearance
RS	Severed	PT	To Thin crown/ reduce crown weight
RPD	Planting Depth (too deep)	PR	To Reduce crown height
RGC	Grade Change		
RSB	Sidewalk Buckling	Target	
		TM	Move
WBU	Weak Branch Union	TEV	Exclude Visitors from Target Area
CA	Canker		
PTA	Poor Tree Architecture	CB	Cable/Bracing
PTA:LT	Leaning Tree	CWT	Convert to Wildlife Tree
PTA:TT	Topped Tree	RT	Remove Tree
EE	Excessive Epicormics	Monitor	Monitor Regularly
		NA	No Action Required
DEAD	DEAD tree, tops or branches		
VO	Visible Obstruction		
PO	Physical Obstruction		

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