

# HAZARD ALERT

## TREE MAINTENANCE

16 February 2024

### References:

WHS Act 2012 (SA) Sections 19, 20, 22, 27 & 28  
WHS Regulations 2012 (SA) – Regulations 34 - 38  
CSaIM Document No. (14) – Hazard Management  
Planning, Development, and Infrastructure Act 2016

### OBJECTIVE

To ensure worksites are aware of the dangers associated with falling tree branches.

### BACKGROUND

There have been a few incidents in our schools / parishes where large tree limbs/branches have fallen. Recently there was a fatal branch fall in Adelaide's Parklands.

We are responsible for the ongoing maintenance of trees.

### PREVENTATIVE ACTION

Visual inspections should be undertaken for high risk areas including:

- Playgrounds with fixed equipment.
- Nature play spaces.
- Trees in close proximity to buildings or infrastructure.
- Climbing trees.
- High use areas (e.g. courtyards where people may congregate recess/lunch times).

The following should be considered as a minimum for visual inspections:

- Dead branches and trees.
- Decayed, rotten trunks and branches, obvious cavities, holes.
- Cracked, splintered wood that has separated from the trunk or major branches.
- Following a significant weather event to ensure no significant changes have occurred.

Further issues to look for on an ongoing basis include:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Have any branches fallen from the tree?</li><li>• Are there large dead branches in the tree?</li><li>• Are there detached branches hanging in the tree?</li><li>• Does the tree have cavities or rotten wood along the trunk or in major branches?</li><li>• Are mushrooms present at the base of the tree?</li><li>• Are there cracks or splits in the trunk or where branches are attached?</li><li>• Have adjacent trees fallen over or died?</li><li>• Has the trunk developed a strong lean?</li><li>• Has the tree been topped or otherwise heavily pruned?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Do many of the major branches arise from one point on the trunk?</li><li>• Have the roots been broken off, injured, or damaged by lowering the soil level, installing pavement, repairing sidewalks, or digging trenches?</li><li>• Has the site recently been changed by construction, raising the soil level, or installing lawns?</li><li>• Have the leaves prematurely developed an unusual colour or size?</li><li>• Have trees in adjacent wooded areas been removed?</li></ul>
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1. In the event that any of the above have been identified, the area is to be cordoned off. An Arborist is to be engaged to assess the tree(s). Recommendations of the Arborist are to be implemented.
2. Where trees have been identified as significant / regulated, they are subject to management as per the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*. The worksite will need to ensure tree management is completed as per the recommendations of the Arborist.
3. Annual inspections are required on significant / regulated trees and a written report provided by the Arborist. The worksite must implement any recommendations identified.
4. Staff to be aware of, and report, any suspected looking tree branches.

For enquiries or further information, please contact your Safety Business Partner at CSaIM or ring the CSaIM Office on 8210 8101