



# RFS

## SAFETY ALERT: Hazardous Trees and Those Surrounding Them

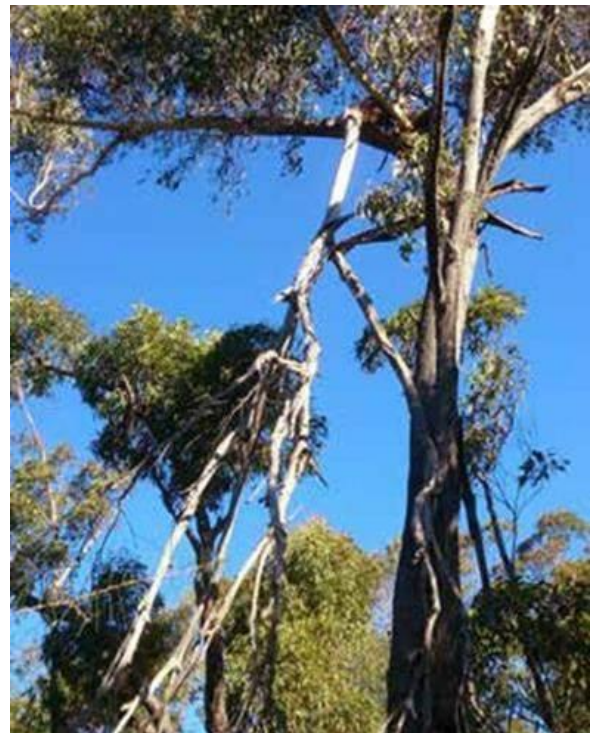
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3 March 2025

The RFS continues to experience incidents involving hazardous trees resulting in injuries, property damage or near miss reports.

For your safety and the safety of those working around you it is vital to consider the following risk controls in line with the [RFS Operational Procedure and Guideline \(OPG\) on Hazardous Trees](#).

1. **Look up** - It is the responsibility of all personnel within the incident area to identify any suspected hazardous trees and/or tree hazards. If unsure, obtain advice from suitable experts (eg. Fireline Tree Feller).
2. Once identified - **Keep personnel away from the tree** – clearly mark the hazard and establish an exclusion zone. Consider physical barriers or avoidance/isolation where appropriate.
3. The **exclusion zone** of a hazardous tree is a minimum of two tree lengths of the tree. Where the area presents unique circumstances, such as ground slope or the tree has a recognisable lean, the exclusion zone should be calculated as 180 degrees from the tree in the applicable direction.
4. Ensure appropriate and ongoing **communication** to all members on the fireground this may include radio communication, regular briefings or inclusion on Fire Mapper.
5. In all situations, an ongoing **Dynamic Risk Assessment** (DRA) should be conducted to identify changing circumstances and emerging hazards.
6. Always wear the correct **PPE**, especially when on the fireground and working in and around hazardous trees. Helmets are to be worn at all times on the fire ground and when working in and around trees.
7. All members should complete the **Hazardous Trees Awareness training** on Fuel for further information and risk controls on hazardous trees.



For further information regarding the Hazardous Trees, please contact the Safety team on email [safety@rfs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:safety@rfs.nsw.gov.au)

