

Tree Risk Assessment Checklist

PHC Rx

Field checklist for a basic (Level 2) assessment, in the order the PHC Rx nine-step wizard runs. Tick as you go; the numbers go on phcrx.app/resources/tree-risk-assessment-checklist the form or in the app.

1 • TREE

Client _____ Date _____ Time _____ Tree no. _____
Address / tree location _____ Species _____
DBH (in) _____ Height (ft) _____ Crown spread (ft) Assessor / credential no. _____ Time frame _____
Tools ☐ Binoculars ☐ Mallet ☐ Probe ☐ Resistance drill ☐ Tape ☐ Clinometer ☐ Other

2 • TARGETS (ONE LINE EACH, UP TO FOUR)

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Walked the target zone: fall distance in every direction, not just toward the house | ☐ Can the target be moved or the use restricted? Noted per target |
| ☐ Named each target: people, structure, vehicle, utility, other tree, fence | ☐ Photographed each target from the tree |
| ☐ Occupancy rate per target: rare · occasional · frequent · constant | ☐ Asked the client where people actually stand, park, and sleep |

3 • SITE FACTORS

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ History of failures on this tree or this species on site | ☐ Soil: limited volume, saturated, shallow, compacted, pavement over roots |
| ☐ Topography: flat, slope, aspect; drainage direction | ☐ Prevailing wind direction and exposure change (neighbor tree removed?) |
| ☐ Site changes: grade, clearing, hydrology, root cuts, trenching, paving, with dates | ☐ Common weather: strong winds, ice, snow, heavy rain |

4 • TREE HEALTH AND SPECIES PROFILE

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Vigor: low · normal · high | ☐ Species failure profile: how this species usually fails here (branches, trunk, roots) |
| ☐ Foliage: none (seasonal or dead), normal, chlorotic %, necrotic % | ☐ Wound response and compartmentalization observed |
| ☐ Pests, disease, abiotic damage noted; diagnosis run if unsure | ☐ Recent decline vs long-standing condition |

5 • LOAD FACTORS

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Wind exposure: protected · partial · full · wind funneling | ☐ Interior branches: few · normal · dense |
| ☐ Relative crown size: small · medium · large | ☐ Vines, mistletoe, moss, epiphytes; snow or ice load history |
| ☐ Crown density: sparse · normal · dense | ☐ Recent or planned change in load (pruning, removal nearby, construction) |

6 • DEFECTS BY PART, FROM THE GROUND UP

Roots and root collar

- ☐ Collar visible; buried depth if not
- ☐ Girdling roots
- ☐ Dead or decayed roots; conks
- ☐ Cut roots: distance from trunk
- ☐ Root plate lifting; soil cracks
- ☐ Mallet sounding around the base
- ☐ Main concern and load on it
- ☐ Likelihood: improbable · possible · probable · imminent

Trunk

- ☐ Cracks, seams, cankers, ooze
- ☐ Codominant stems; included bark
- ☐ Cavity: depth, % circumference
- ☐ Decay, conks, sapwood damage
- ☐ Lean: degrees; corrected or not; soil movement
- ☐ Poor taper; lightning damage
- ☐ Main concern and load on it
- ☐ Likelihood: improbable · possible · probable · imminent

Crown and branches

- ☐ Dead or broken branches: count, max diameter
- ☐ Over-extended limbs; weak attachments
- ☐ Cracks, codominant, included bark
- ☐ Cavities, conks, decay; previous failures
- ☐ Pruning history: topped, lion-tailed, flush cuts
- ☐ LCR %; unbalanced crown
- ☐ Main concern and load on it
- ☐ Likelihood: improbable · possible · probable · imminent

7 · CATEGORIZATION

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ One row per failure type: conditions of concern, part size, fall distance, target number | ☐ Failure and impact × consequences = risk rating (matrix 2) |
| ☐ Likelihood of failure × likelihood of impact = failure and impact (matrix 1) | ☐ Highest row becomes the overall tree risk rating |

8 · MITIGATION

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Per concern: prune, reduce, cable or brace, remove, move or restrict the target, monitor | ☐ Work priority 1 to 4 |
| ☐ Residual risk rating after each option | ☐ Advanced (Level 3) assessment needed? Which: resistance drilling, aerial, root excavation |

9 · FINALIZE

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Preliminary or final | ☐ Inspection interval set |
| ☐ Inspection limitations listed (access, foliage, weather, time) | ☐ Signed, dated, credential number, photos attached; report delivered |

PHC Rx worksheet in the industry-standard field order. Not a certifying body's form. The nine-step wizard in the app runs both matrices and exports the branded report:
phcrx.app/software/tree-risk-assessment-software