



# REMOVAL OF HAZARDOUS TREES

## by the City of Pittsburgh Forestry Division



USDA Forest Service photo of curb and house damage from an uprooted tree.



USDA Forest Service photo of tree damage to an automobile.

### What is a 'Hazard' tree?

The Forestry Division of the City of Pittsburgh is always on the alert for hazard trees. A 'hazard' tree is a tree with structural defects likely to cause failure of all or part of the tree, which could strike a 'target'. A target may be persons, vehicles, buildings, utilities, park benches, streets, or yards.

Because of the natural variability of tree species, the severity of their defects, and the different sites upon which they grow, it is a complex process to evaluate trees for hazardous defects. Trees suspected to be hazards are inspected carefully and systematically by the city's Forestry Division. All parts of the tree must be inspected from all sides and angles. These include: roots, root or trunk flare, main trunk, branches, and branch unions.

What are we looking for? There are visible signs that a tree is failing. These include dead wood, cracks, decay, cankers, root problems, and poor tree architecture. Visit our Forestry website to see a Hazard Tree Checklist. If you think you have observed a hazardous tree please call our office at 412-422-6555.

**Due to structural defects, the tree located at**

**will be removed on or after**  
 \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
 MONTH      DAY      YEAR

You may **NOT** appeal the removal of this tree. "When, in the opinion of the Department of Public Works, a tree or portion(s) of a tree in a public area constitutes a hazard to person or property, and is verified by the City Forester, the Department or designated contractor shall remove the hazard without notice or appeal" (§ 483.05 HAZARDOUS TREES IN PUBLIC AREAS).

**REASON(S)**

- DEAD or DYING
- CAVITY
- ROOT ROT
- UPROOTING
- STRUCTURAL INSTABILITY
- OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

If you wish to speak with the City Forester about this particular tree, please call \_\_\_\_\_ at **412-422-6555**. Please provide the address of this tree as a reference when you inquire.

If you wish to know more about the **City of Pittsburgh's** 7-Year Management Plan for renewing the urban forest canopy, please check out our website at <http://www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/pw/html/forestry.html>