Municipal Tree Risk Management

8:15 – 9:00 **Our Evolving Understanding of Tree Risk**

There is a tendency within our profession to assign risk to a tree in terms of absolutes. The reality is very different. Any part of a tree has some probability of failure and every tree part failure has a probability of striking a target. The former happens regularly. The latter does not, yet it drives much of our understanding of risk. This session will discuss risk in this context and provide insights on differentiating perceived risk over real risk.

9:00 – 9:45 **Meeting the Duty of Care While Staying Reasonable**

The Standard of Care in which we operate is defined by the profession. Yet this Standard exists in numerous documents—many of which are open to interpretation. This session will discuss how communities and regions can define a standard that is reasonable and unique to local circumstances.

9:45 – 10:00 **BREAK**

10:00 – 10:45 **Elements of a Tree Inventory to Address Risk**

Tree inventories are an important instrument for identifying risk issues that can be mitigated through short and long-term policies. Certain features collected during the inventory process can enhance the risk management development process. Mark will discuss the specifics of these data fields and their relevance.

10:45 – 11:30 **The Applied Use of a Tree Inventory**

An inventory is used to manage day to day operations and define long-term policies. This session will demonstrate, by lecture and class exercises, how to use the data collected more effectively to meet these two goals.

11:30 – 12:00 **Instruments for Quantifying Risk**

Our understanding of risk within our individual communities is a function of past experiences. This informative session will provide details on how to collect and extract data from various pre-existing sources to identify risk concerns.

12:00 – 12:30 **LUNCH**

12:30 – 1:30 **Instruments for Quantifying Risk (cont'd)**

The dialogue immediately after lunch will continue from the morning session.

1:30 – 2:30   **Design Standards to Reduce Risk**

The focus of this talk will detail elements of the built landscape that can be modified to minimize future risk issues.

2:30 – 2:45   **BREAK**

2:45 – 3:30   **Developing a Risk Management Strategy**

The closing sessions will outline the development of strategies that are directed at a community's specific resources (budget, staffing, etc.)

3:30 – 4:15   **Documentation, Implementation and Review**

The importance of documenting a communities policies will be discussed. The importance of this component cannot be emphasized more. Documentation defines a clear strategy that can be uniformly applied and is specific to the community. It establishes why those policies exist for the town and why they may differ from other communities.

4:15   **Questions and End of Session**

Materials Provided:

Workbook

A booklet with a narrative of each of the eight sessions will be provided. Each session chapter will include a narrative of the main points of the session, definition of terms, powerpoint files, exercises and worksheets. An electronic copy of the workbook contents will be provided to each State to disseminate as they see fit.