QTRA Quantified Tree Risk Assessment

Newsletter & Training Calender I Issue 22 I August 2016

Training Calender Sep - Dec 2016

United Kingdom:

19 Sep 2016
Chelmsford, UK
QTRA Training

20 Sep 2016
Chelmsford, UK
VTA - Estimating Probability of Failure Training

26 Sep 2016
Telford, UK
QTRA Training

27 Sep 2016
Telford, UK
VTA - Estimating Probability of Failure Training

10 Oct 2016
Exeter, UK
QTRA Training

11 Oct 2016
Exeter, UK
VTA - Estimating Probability of Failure Training

16 Oct 2016
Grantham, UK
Estimating Probability of Failure Training
A Field Day for Arborists

17 Oct 2016
Grantham, UK
QTRA Training

18 Oct 2016
Grantham, UK
VTA - Estimating Probability of Failure Training

31 Oct 2016
Oxford, UK
QTRA Training

01 Nov 2016
Oxford, UK
VTA - Estimating Probability of Failure Training

08 Nov 2016
Carlisle, UK
QTRA Training

09 Nov 2016
Carlisle, UK
VTA - Estimating Probability of Failure Training

Australia:

23 & 24 Nov 2016
Melbourne, AU
QTRA Training
Including Estimating Probability of Failure - 2 days

25 Nov 2016
Melbourne, AU
QTRA Advanced User Training

27 Nov 2016
Parramatta, AU
Estimating Probability of Failure
A Field Day for Arborists

28 & 29 Nov 2016
Sydney, AU
QTRA Training
Including Estimating Probability of Failure - 2 days

30 Nov 2016
Sydney, AU
QTRA Advanced User Training

04 Dec 2016
Perth, AU
Estimating Probability of Failure
A Field Day for Arborists

05 & 06 Dec 2016
Perth, AU
QTRA Training
Including Estimating Probability of Failure - 2 days

07 Dec 2016
Perth, AU
QTRA Advanced User Training

09 Dec 2016
Darwin, AU
QTRA Advanced User Training

10 Dec 2016
Darwin, AU
Estimating Probability of Failure
A Field Day for Arborists

12 & 13 Dec 2016
Darwin, AU
QTRA Training
Including Estimating Probability of Failure - 2 days

19 Dec 2016
Brisbane, AU
QTRA Advanced User Training

20 & 21 Dec 2016
Brisbane, AU
QTRA Training
Including Estimating Probability of Failure - 2 days

New Zealand:

29 - 30 Nov 2016
Wellington, NZ
QTRA Training
Including Estimating Probability of Failure - 2 days

1 Dec 2016
Wellington, NZ
QTRA Advanced User Training

Spain:

24 - 26 Oct 2016
Madrid, Spain
QTRA & VTA Training;
Estimating the Probability of Failure - 3 days

Germany:

4 - 6 Oct 2016
Bonn, Germany
QTRA & VTA Training;
Estimating the Probability of Failure - 3 days

International QTRA

In March this year David Evans delivered QTRA training at several venues in Australia and new training dates are scheduled for Perth, Sydney, Melbourne, Darwin & Brisbane in November & December 2016. The Estimating Likelihood of Failure field day has been included at each of the five stops, so come along to update your risk assessment skills and calibrate your estimates. It's open to all so bring a colleague along.

In May, Mike Ellison and John Hartill ran a four-day QTRA training workshop at Nordiska Folkhogskolan in Kungälv, Sweden which was a great venue with a good range of trees, where we had the added bonus of being able to dismantle and assess a leaning pine tree with the help of Hartill Trädspert. All in all there were some major shifts in risk perception over the four days. The QTRA training was followed by a one-day QTRA update workshop with a large number of users from a community housing organisation updating and expanding their QTRA skills.

Further dates in Europe are planned for Bonn, Germany on 4 – 6 October and Madrid on 24 – 26 October and dates for Denmark and probably Italy coming up soon. We are in talks with colleagues in South Africa with a view to running training events in 2017.

If you have a background in delivering arboriculture training and are interested in partnering with us to deliver QTRA training in your area

QTRA Simplifies Tree Risk Decision-making

Increasing use of the QTRA version 5 has taken us to a place where for most risk management decisions we need to give little or no thought to the risk of harm in numbers because we can inform risk management with our simple colour-coded outputs for Broadly Acceptable, Tolerable and Unacceptable risks. Only when risks are approaching the Tolerable limit do we need to give any particular thought to the numbers in order to consider the proportionality of an intervention.

QTRA Training Format

From late October this year, our QTRA training and Estimating Probability of Failure workshops will be combined into a single two-day event, which will be extended to three days when it is being presented to a non-English speaking audience. This new approach will enable us to deliver a more rounded training in the application of QTRA. The new event will have an increased focus on the practical application of the QTRA method in the field.

Advanced Training for QTRA users

From November this year we will be offering advanced training in the application of QTRA. This one-day workshop will focus on the application of QTRA in the field and in particular the use of the QTRA Walkover Assessment. We will also identify a process for providing management guidance and making delegated risk management decisions. The training will be followed by an open-book test.

Estimating the Probability of Failure - A Field Day for Arborists

Estimating the likelihood of tree or branch failure is a key component of any tree risk assessment. In QTRA, we use a system of benchmarking our estimates, where we consider those things that we are least confident in (partially compromised trees and branches) against our two benchmarks (a. structurally optimised trees and b. wholly compromised trees) where we have the greatest confidence in our judgment.

In 2015 we ran several field days where arborists were able to trial our approach, calibrating their estimates and putting them into one of the QTRA Probability of Failure ranges. These field days are free of charge and you don't need to be a QTRA user. Places are limited so book on the QTRA website at http://www.qtra.co.uk.

Go to Training Calender >

Go to Workshop Outlines >

Go to Booking Forms >

Risk Management requires common sense

As human beings, we have a tendency to seek out certainties and absolutes in life. When it comes to trees and managing their potential to cause harm and the benefits they provide, it's impossible to come up with a definite answer, but we can make reasonable estimates of the risks from trees using QTRA.

For one thing, just like us, no two trees are the same. They grow and develop at different rates, some can become infected, injured or affected by storm or animal damage at any time, and some can thrive whilst others fade. Trees are not static, but change throughout their lifetimes so potential for harm is usually only measured from a snapshot in time and considered as likelihood with reference to a particular time-frame, which is usually the year. In other words, whilst we can do a risk assessment of a tree and come up with a probability of failure or potential to harm, that assessment will only apply to the time-frame over which it was considered. For longer-term management decisions and particularly reassessment cycles, the risk assessment needs to be put into the context of a risk management strategy, and this will inform the way that particular risks need to be reviewed...

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What is 'reasonable'?

We live in litigious times and, apart from wanting to prevent injury, anyone responsible for trees will also want to protect themselves from being sued.

According to Section 3 of the UK's Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, there is a duty to do all that is reasonably practicable to ensure that people are not exposed to risk to their health and safety. What is reasonable depends on the factors above and no specific parameters can be defined due to the variable nature of circumstances as already explained....

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What if my tree causes harm and I get taken to court?

In terms of recent case law, it would seem on the whole that, as long as land owners have proof that they have put in place some kind of risk management process, and have not been overtly negligent, judges tend to find in favour of them.

In 2011, the High Court found that the National Trust was not to blame for the death of an 11-year-old schoolboy fatally crushed by a branch in woods in Norfolk. Daniel Mullinger died instantly when the 70ft (21m) branch fell from a 180-year-old beech tree in the Great Wood at the 17th Century stately home Felbrigg Hall near Cromer....

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