QTRA Quantified Tree Risk Assessment

Simply Balancing Risks With Benefits

Issue 20, January 2016

Newsletter

and events calendar

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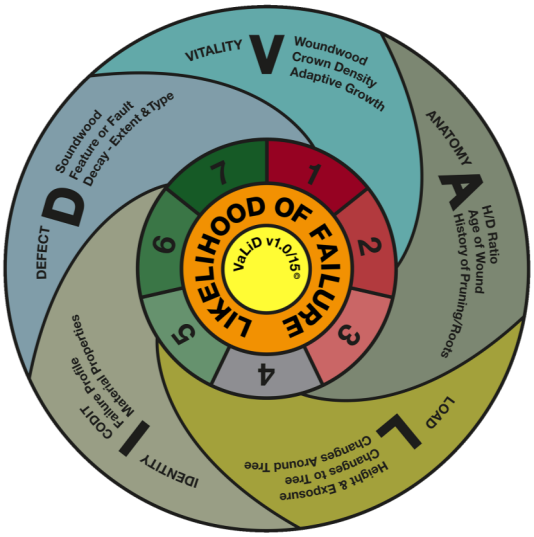
Texas Holdem—What are the Odds?

David Evans and Mike Ellison have been invited to run a 'Likelihood of Failure Club: The VaLiD Approach', Tree Academy Workshop at the International Society of Arboriculture's annual conference in Texas this August. Those of you who have come along to one of the informal 'nice days out', and gone through the Probability of Failure calibration exercises, will have some idea of what is going to be happening here. This is an exciting opportunity to introduce Likelihood of Failure Club, VaLiD, the QTRA voting cards, and a core element of the way QTRA approaches tree risk assessment to an even wider international audience.

Estimating Probability of Failure - The VaLiD Approach?

David introduced The VaLiD approach to estimating Probability of Failure at the UK Arboricultural Association's annual conference in September last year. The feedback from the presentation, and from field trials, has been very positive.



Some of you will have seen draft versions and this is what the VaLiD tool currently looks like. VaLiD is a thinking tool that provides a structured methodology to help the risk assessor reduce uncertainty when estimating the likelihood, or chance of tree failure by considering: Vitality, Anatomy, Load, Identity, and Defect. VaLiD is an easy to remember mnemonic checklist of the biomechanical, biological, and pathological elements that need to be considered.

VaLiD is going to be used in the QTRA and Estimating Probability of Failure (PoF) workshops planned for the first half of this year, and seems set to become an important aid to QTRA. The next stage will be to develop documented guidance for its application.

Safety in Numbers

David's presentation at the 2015 ISA conference in Florida, 'Safety in Numbers' is a great introduction to some key risk concepts. It explains the tremendous value in quantifying risk, and outlines some of the benefits QTRA provides to both the risk assessor and risk manager. This presentation includes a transcription to accompany the slides. Please feel free to download and share a copy with your colleagues, clients, and friends. It can be found at the 'Downloads' page on the QTRA website here http://tinyurl.com/4rprey.

Estimating Probability of Failure Field Days

Another successful round of QTRA training in Australia and New Zealand was completed in Sydney just before Christmas, although almost non-stop rain put a bit of a dampener on the last day. Thanks to Jessica and Mark Hartley of The Arborist Network for arranging the Sydney venue for us so close to Christmas.

Before the Sydney workshops, we had an 'Estimating Likelihood of Failure' field day at Hambledon Cottage in Parramatta, New South Wales, where arborists from a range of backgrounds spent the day calibrating their estimates of tree and branch failure using the

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Events Calendar

Australia

QTRA Training

29 Feb - Launceston
03 Mar - Adelaide
07 Mar - Canberra
14 Mar - Sydney
17 Mar - Gold Coast
22 Mar - Melbourne

Visual Tree Assessment - Estimating Probability of Failure Training

01 Mar - Launceston
04 Mar - Adelaide
08 Mar - Canberra
15 Mar - Sydney
18 Mar - Gold Coast
23 Mar - Melbourne

QTRA Update Training

09 Mar - Canberra

United Kingdom

QTRA Training

10 Mar - Harrogate
15 Mar - Macclesfield
19 Apr - Cambridge
26 Apr - Guildford
24 May - Bath

Visual Tree Assessment - Estimating Probability of Failure Training

11 Mar - Harrogate
16 Mar - Macclesfield
20 Apr - Cambridge
27 Apr - Guildford
25 May - Bath

Sweden

QTRA & Estimating Probability of Failure Training

09-12 May - Kungälv

QTRA Update Training

13 May - Kungälv

QTRA benchmarking method. To add structure to our assessments, we used the 'VaLiD' approach, which is discussed in more detail above. VaLiD proved to be an excellent prompt for the participants to consider all facets of the tree and it's environment to arrive at reasonable estimates of Probability of Failure. Successful field days were also held in Perth and Melbourne earlier in December.

We introduced benchmarking for the Probability of Failure component of QTRA in our 2013 revision of the method.

This has been a major advance in the way we consider the chance or likelihood that a tree will fail and a leap forward for both QTRA and the tree industry generally.

Assessing probability of tree failure can involve a high degree of uncertainty, but benchmarking enables us to make the most of what we do know and with a little practice, arborists can develop a high degree of confidence in identifying benchmark trees. With the structurally optimised tree at one end of the scale and at the other end the massively compromised tree. Against these benchmarks, we can consider those trees that we might be less certain about.

Qtra Newsletter Articles

It would be great if Users could add to the content of future newsletters by sending articles that they think others would benefit from reading . Send them to admin@qtra.co.uk.

We are currently looking at scheduling training in Germany, Denmark and South Africa. If you would like to attend our training workshops but your area is not included in our calendar, please get in touch and we will look at scheduling training near you.