QTRA Quantified Tree Risk Assessment
Simply Balancing Risks With Benefits

Newsletter
and events calendar

ISA & AA Conference News

David Evans, one of our trainers, is presenting two tree risk-related papers at conferences later this year.

This August, he's going to be careful of the alligators in Florida while attending the International Society of Arboriculture's annual conference to present 'Safety in Numbers – The Value in Balancing Risks with Benefits'. This is a great opportunity to take QTRA v5 across the pond to an international audience, and explore the many advantages it gives the tree risk assessor, and substantial benefits it affords the tree owner/manager. Part of the message will be the story of how North Somerset Council, which was one of the first councils to adopt QTRA principles as the basis for its tree risk management policy, has been able to reduce its risk assessment and risk management costs by 50%.

The hot steamy tropics of the sunshine state then give way to the mists of mellow fruitfulness of Warwick in September for the Arboricultural Association conference, where David will be appearing at the biomechanics themed day. 'Estimating Likelihood of Failure - A VALID Approach' will be getting its first public outing as part of the new improved QTRA guidance for estimating the probability or likelihood of tree failure. The VALID approach considers: Vitality, Anatomy, Load, Identification and Defect. VALID is an easy to remember mnemonic checklist of the biomechanical, biological, and pathological elements of an assessment that informs the jumps in likelihood of failure ranges between high and low levels of certainty.

QTRA International

In May this year, Mike Ellison travelled over to Périgueux in the Dordogne region of France to deliver the first QTRA version 5 training workshop with our French language trainer William Moore of Atelier de l'Arbre. William has presented QTRA training events for French speakers in France, Belgium, Switzerland and Canada and Mike was supporting his first presentation of v5. Here we are voting with a consensus that the Probability of Failure for a damaged Aesculus is PoF range 5.

We again had successful workshops at the wonderful Phoenix Park in Dublin and at several locations in the UK. Take a look at the training calendar for the last few events of the summer.

In July, Mike is taking QTRA to Toronto Ontario where Emerald Ash Borer infestations are causing such devastation in the native ash population that managing the dead and dying trees is presenting land owners and particularly local government with a burden on financial resources. Quantified Tree Risk Assessments will help tree managers identify and prioritise allocation of their resources to those risks that can be demonstrated to be high, rather than taking the scattergun approach of 'if it's dead remove it'.

Sowing the Seed of QTRA v6

A panel of users if being put together to review the ongoing development of QTRA. Now v5 has been bedded down, we're getting lots of very positive feedback about it from Users, and how it's helping clients to manage their tree risk. There's been some comment on the discussion forum about elements of QTRA that will be reviewed, and we are in the process of considering how this might help develop the method. To give you some insight, one thing that is already earmarked is removing the risk

Events Calendar

Australia

QTRA Training

27 July - Sydney

02 Dec - Perth

08 Dec - Broome

14 Dec - Melbourne

21 Dec - Sydney

Visual Tree Assessment - Estimating Probability of Failure Training

03 Dec - Perth

09 Dec - Broome

15 Dec - Melbourne

22 Dec - Sydney

QTRA Update Training

04 Dec - Perth

Canada

QTRA Training

21 July - Peterborough

23 July - Peterborough

Visual Tree Assessment - Estimating Probability of Failure Training

22 July - Peterborough

24 July - Peterborough

New Zealand
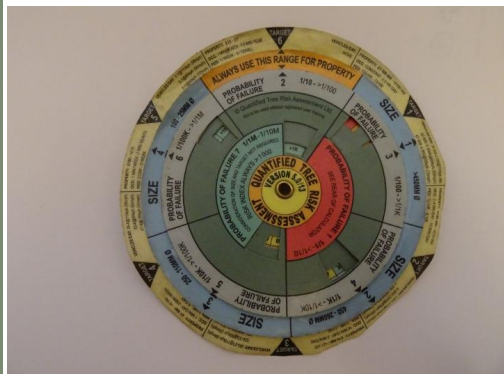
QTRA Training

17 Dec - Auckland

Visual Tree Assessment - Estimating Probability of Failure Training

18 Dec - Auckland

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index on the manual calculator, and we're looking to improve Probability of Failure (PoF) guidance with VALID and worked examples of PoF ranges.
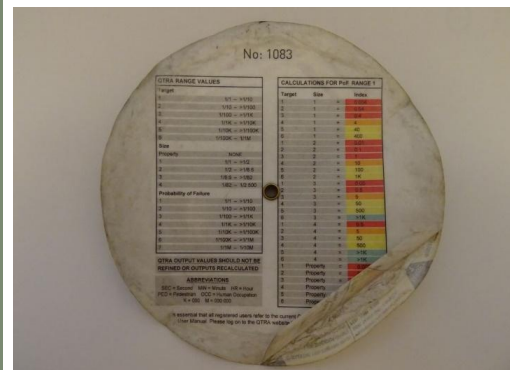
We would very much welcome any suggestions from Users on how we can improve QTRA to make it easier for you to use, and for your clients to understand. Some things to consider. How are you finding the benchmarking and estimating PoF estimates? How often are you getting a PoF range 4 output, and how confident do you feel using that range? Are you getting any amber (by agreement) risks?

Calculated Out

Congratulations to Ollie Frost, who turned up at the Bath 'Visual Tree Assessment – Estimating Probability of Failure' day in April with a battered calculator. He's the first User we've heard of who's managed to wear out a QTRA v5 manual calculator through use.

From our analysis of the calculator, it looks like he spent a lot of time assessing Target ranges 2 and 3. The Probability of Failure of this calcutor has been estimated at range 2.

A Nice Day Out

We're planning two Visual Tree Assessment – Estimating Probability of Failure field days,

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which QTRA Registered Users are welcome to come along to. They are to be held:
Sunday 19th July - Chatsworth House
Sunday 2nd August - Richmond Park

The idea behind these days is they are social outings, with a potter, picnic, and perhaps a pub, amongst marvellous veteran trees and great landscapes, but that they also come with some training value. Mike Ellison and David Evans are going to be at both days, and they plan to run some Estimating Probability of Failure exercises. Those that come along can share opinions and experience, and debate the factors that affect tree and branch stability. As well as going through the QTRA calibration exercises, the days will also provide a road-testing opportunity for VALID (see conference post above) as a way of helping Users to estimate the likelihood of tree and branch failure with greater confidence and consistency.

Events Calendar United Kingdom

QTRA Training
07 July - Guildford
14 July - Cambridge
07 Oct - Liverpool
13 Oct - Monmouth
21 Oct - Exeter
28 Oct - Glasgow
03 Nov - Warwick

Visual Tree Assessment - Estimating Probability of Failure Training
08 July - Guildford
15 July - Cambridge
08 Oct - Liverpool
14 Oct - Monmouth
22 Oct - Exeter
29 Oct - Glasgow
04 Nov - Warwick

If you would like to attend our training workshops but your area is not included in these dates, please get in touch and we will look at scheduling

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