



## NEWS ARTICLE

### Tree Hazards

Heather Wolfe

Ever find yourself concerned that your trees are a potential hazard to your home or your child's play area? It is important to correct problems or altogether remove hazardous trees. Take these tips from the University of Tennessee as you consider tree safety.

Be attentive to plant growth at the base of the tree. The presence of fungi, including mushrooms, indicates increased decay in the wood.

Observe the formation of the crown of the tree. Lopsided or V-shaped crowns are potentially dangerous. Lopsided crowns tend to lean and can be hazardous to objects below the limbs. As a general rule, trees with more than a 15 degree arch from vertical should be removed. V-shaped crowns generally have more stress on the limbs than wider angled crowns. Strong winds or ice storms can cause V-shaped crowns to break.

Beware of poor root systems. According to the University of Tennessee, if over half of the roots are exposed, the tree should be removed. Several outward signs of a poor root system include small, discolored leaves, stunted growth, and soil compaction or erosion.

Some tips recommended by the University of Tennessee to check your tree for hazards is to walk all the way around the tree, rather than looking from just one position. To inspect the top of the tree, binoculars are a helpful tool. Documentation is suggested to track tree health. Once observations have been made, contact your local arborist to fix problems or trim and removal company for a safe removal of hazards.

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