



October 22, 2014

Mr. Jim Stivender
Lake County Department of Public Works
Highway/Right of Way
437 Ardice Avenue
Eustis, FL 32726

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you to inform you that a large oak tree growing on the county right of way is slowly beginning to lean towards my house. If it falls I believe it will land on the corner of my house and garage. This tree is located on Magnolia Ridge Road, which branches off Dogwood Drive, which branches off Picciola Drive. The tree in question is less than 25 feet from the centerline of the paved road surface.

The prudent thing for you to do would be to remove the tree before it causes significant damage to my property and dwelling. This is a very old tree with a lot of rot in its branches and trunk. Its root system has lifted noticeably on the side away from the dwelling, allowing it to lean towards the dwelling.

I see no reason why I should be responsible for and future damage that your tree might cause, especially since I have now informed you of the peril of a forthcoming event. Failure to take action would be negligent on your part.

I am sending a copy of this letter and risk assessment to my insurer to alert them to the risk of the forthcoming peril.

Also, I have enclosed a Basic Tree Risk Assessment Form prepared by a certified arborist concerning the tree in question.

I thank you for your attention to this matter, and hope to hear from you in the near future.

Sincerely,

William A. Pope, jr.
35542 Dogwood Drive
Fruitland Park, Fl 34731-5903
352-787-7480



Basic Tree Risk Assessment Form

Client William Pope Date 10-20-14 Time 15:00
 Address/Tree location 35542 Dogwood dr Fruitland Park 34731 Tree no. 1 Sheet 1 of 1
 Tree species Laurel Oak dbh 6'3" Height 40 feet Crown spread dia. 40 feet
 Assessor(s) Anastasia Zito FI-6652A Time frame year Tools used mallet, binoculars

Target Assessment

Target number	Target description	Target zone			Occupancy rate 1-rare 2-occasional 3-frequent 4-constant	Practical to move target?	Restriction practical?
		Target within drip line	Target within 1x Ht.	Target within 1.5x Ht.			
1	<u>House, tiltation system of the house, people</u>		X		4		
2	<u>county road</u>	X			3		
3	<u>power lines</u>		X		4		
4	<u>TV cable</u>		X		4		

Site Factors

History of failures drooping of dead branches Topography Flat Slope % Aspect _____
 Site changes None Grade change Site clearing Changed soil hydrology Root cuts Describe _____
 Soil conditions Limited volume Saturated Shallow Compacted Pavement over roots 40 % Describe asphalt, (county road)
 Prevailing wind direction _____ Common weather Strong winds Ice Snow Heavy rain Describe significantly can increase low

Tree Health and Species Profile

Vigor Low Normal High Foliage None (seasonal) None (dead) Normal _____ % Chlorotic 10 % Necrotic 15 %
 Pests carpenter ants, borers, fungus Abiotic _____
 Species failure profile Branches Trunk Roots Describe big and small dead branches, decaying branches, leaning trunk

Load Factors

Wind exposure Protected Partial Full Wind funneling Relative crown size Small Medium Large
 Crown density Sparse Normal Dense Interior branches Few Normal Dense Vines/Mistletoe/Moss on the leaning side
 Recent or planned change in load factors weather changes

Tree Defects and Conditions Affecting the Likelihood of Failure

— Crown and Branches —

Unbalanced crown LCR 65 %
 Dead twigs/branches 30 % overall Max. dia. 14"
 Broken/Hangers Number 8 Max. dia. 8"
 Over-extended branches
 Pruning history
 Crown cleaned Thinned Raised
 Reduced Topped Lion-tailed
 Flush cuts Other _____
 Cracks transverse cracks Lightning damage
 Codominant partially dead Included bark
 Weak attachments Cavity/Nest hole % circ. _____
 Previous branch failures 8 Similar branches present
 Dead/Missing bark Cankers/Galls/Burls Sapwood damage/decay
 Conks Heartwood decay white rot
 Response growth _____
 Main concern(s) big dead branches, big (multiple) decaying branches targeting the house, road, power lines, TV cables
 Load on defect N/A Minor Moderate Significant wind or hard rain can cause a failure
 Likelihood of failure Improbable Possible Probable Imminent branches are very weak

— Trunk —

Dead/Missing bark Abnormal bark texture/color
 Codominant stems Included bark Cracks
 Sapwood damage/decay Cankers/Galls/Burls Sap ooze
 Lightning damage Heartwood decay Conks/Mushrooms
 Cavity/Nest hole % circ. _____ Depth _____ Poor taper
 Lean 20° Corrected? _____
 Response growth not exhibiting
 Main concern(s) it used to be straight now it's in progressive leaning
 Load on defect N/A Minor Moderate Significant
 Likelihood of failure Improbable Possible Probable Imminent

— Roots and Root Collar —

Collar buried/Not visible Depth _____ Stem girdling
 Dead Decay Conks/Mushrooms
 Ooze Cavity % circ. _____
 Cracks Cut/Damaged roots Distance from trunk 1-2 feet
 Root plate lifting slight Soil weakness
 Response growth not exhibiting
 Main concern(s) weak anchorage
 Load on defect N/A Minor Moderate Significant
 Likelihood of failure Improbable Possible Probable Imminent

Risk Categorization

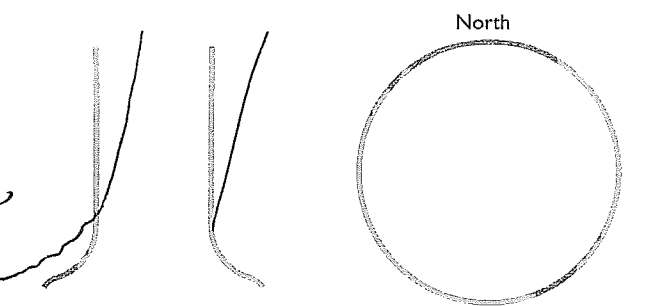
Condition number	Tree part	Conditions of concern	Part size	Fall distance	Target number	Target protection	Likelihood								Consequences				Risk rating of part (from Matrix 2)
							Failure				Impact				Failure & Impact (from Matrix 1)				
							Improbable	Possible	Probable	Imminent	Very low	Low	Medium	High	Unlikely	Somewhat	Likely	Very likely	
1	trunk	leaning	6,3	40	1				X									X	high
					4					X									X
2	dead branch #1	dead	14"		2						X							X	High
					3				X						X			X	Moderate
3	dead branch #2	dead	12"		2				X			X						X	High
					3				X			X			X			X	Moderate
4	dead branch #3	dead	10"		2			X				X						X	High

Matrix 1. Likelihood matrix.

Likelihood of Failure	Likelihood of Impacting Target			
	Very low	Low	Medium	High
Imminent	Unlikely	Somewhat likely	Likely	Very likely
Probable	Unlikely	Unlikely	Somewhat likely	Likely
Possible	Unlikely	Unlikely	Unlikely	Somewhat likely
Improbable	Unlikely	Unlikely	Unlikely	Unlikely

Matrix 2. Risk rating matrix.

Likelihood of Failure & Impact	Consequences of Failure			
	Negligible	Minor	Significant	Severe
Very likely	Low	Moderate	High	Extreme
Likely	Low	Moderate	High	High
Somewhat likely	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate
Unlikely	Low	Low	Low	Low



Notes, explanations, descriptions Oak tree is in definite decline. A lot of dead branches and decaying, leaning trunk with signs of decay, cracks, decaying root collar, drooping branches. The tree is considered hazardous.

Mitigation options Removing the tree. Just pruning dead branches would leave unbalanced tree, which can increase risk of failure of leaning trunk.

Residual risk _____
 Residual risk _____
 Residual risk _____
 Residual risk _____

Overall tree risk rating Low Moderate High Extreme

Overall residual risk Low Moderate High Extreme

Work priority 1 2 3 4

Recommended inspection interval _____

Data Final Preliminary Advanced assessment needed No Yes-Type/Reason _____

Inspection limitations None Visibility Access Vines Root collar buried Describe _____

Anastasia Zito ISA certified arborist FL-6658A