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Tree Inspections – nationally recognised Lantra Awards courses go live!

The absence of a consistent approach to tree inspections was an issue the Arboricultural Association had raised for several years within the industry. During 2005 the Association and Lantra Awards developed training at two levels: a basic course to equip people to recognise basic hazards and a more in depth course for people having to make the final decision on complex tree safety issues.

The objective of both courses is to enable delegates to demonstrate to anyone who may need to know (perhaps an employer or a judge) that they have received recognised training to a nationally accepted standard that equips them to make safety assessments on trees at an appropriate level.

Basic Tree Survey and Inspection: is a one-day course aimed at people not currently undertaking tree inspections. This course is designed to give training on identifying common signs and symptoms that may lead to tree or limb failure, and methods of reporting this information to people more suitably qualified to make final decisions on safety. This course will appeal to highway inspectors, park rangers, general estate workers, assistant tree inspectors, tree surgeons etc. and includes a certificate of attendance. Further details available (see below.)

Bookings can be made through the Arboricultural Association at a cost of £129.36 plus VAT (£152 Total) per delegate. Please discuss bespoke courses at your venue directly with Sue Williams.

Professional Tree Inspection: is a three-day course aimed at the experienced arboriculturist or tree work professional, who already has the required technical knowledge and skills to identify and diagnose potential problems, and can recommend and prioritise appropriate remedial actions and work management proposals. **This course is subject to a final assessment in the form of a written theoretical and practical examination.**

This course examines the legal framework and presents various inspection and survey models encompassing the work of Shigo, Mattheck and others, giving guidance on data recording and management recommendations according to the scale and end use of the survey information. The course will include basic information about different types of decay detection and measuring systems. The course is expected to appeal to professionals who have to make the final decision on tree safety issues and includes a Lantra Awards integrated assessment and certificate for successful delegates. Further details available (see below.)

Bookings can be made through the Arboricultural Association at a cost of £375.00 plus VAT (£440.63 Total) per delegate.

Tree inspection training has been available from a number of sources in the past, some of it very good, but the fact that there is now tree inspection training available to nationally accepted standards is a step forward for the industry. The Association is grateful to the many industry professionals who have helped it and Lantra Awards pioneer the training.

Further details and dates are available on the Education and Training pages of the Association's website www.trees.org.uk

Basic Tree Survey and Inspection Training **Accredited by Lantra Awards**

Introduction

This training is designed to help delegates **recognise** hazardous trees as part of their duties and then **report** what they have seen to an appropriate person. This course will appeal to highway inspectors, park rangers, general estate workers, assistant tree inspectors, tree surgeons etc.

This one-day training is mainly classroom based with a tutor and PowerPoint presentation but where possible includes an outdoor practical tutorial. Workbooks are provided and include an example of a recording proforma and delegates undertake a short exercise at the end of the training. A copy of Arboricultural Association Guidance Note 7 'Tree Surveys, a Guide to Good Practice' is also included as part of the package. As the training is Lantra Awards accredited, delegates will achieve a Lantra Awards certificate of attendance.

Course objectives

- State the legal and safety implications of hazardous trees
- Maintain own health and safety while carrying out basic tree inspections
- Recognise hazardous trees
- Determine levels of risk
- Decide on an appropriate course of action
- Collect and maintain adequate information
- Recognise own limitations.

Contents

- 1 Safe practice
 - 1.1 Personal Protective Equipment
 - 1.2 Risk assessment for basic tree inspection
- 2 Legal framework
 - 2.1 Acts of parliament
 - 2.2 Government guidance
- 3 What are tree surveys, inspections and hazard assessments?
 - 3.1 Tree surveys
 - 3.2 Tree inspections
 - 3.3 Tree hazard inspections
- 4 Determining the limits and scope of the survey:
 - 4.1 Highways
 - 4.2 Parks, gardens, woodlands etc.
- 5 Hazardous trees – what to look for:
 - 5.1 Dead trees
 - 5.2 Trees with dead aerial parts or hanging branches
 - 5.3 Trees with damaged roots
 - 5.4 Trees with cracks, splits, cavities or other biomechanical weaknesses
 - 5.5 Trees with fungal infection either on the roots, stem or aerial parts
 - 5.6 Trees declining, dying back or with thin, unhealthy crowns
 - 5.7 Ivy.

Please note: It is not expected that delegates will have or gain a detailed knowledge of tree biology, legislation or any other arboricultural specialism: the job of carrying out a detailed tree inspection to determine a tree's condition must be carried out by someone trained and competent to do so as specialist equipment may be needed as well as knowledge of, and competence in, biomechanics, pathology and legislation.

Professional Tree Inspection Training
Accredited by Lantra Awards (ITA course)

Introduction

This training is designed to help delegates accurately and consistently **record appropriate data** after recognising hazardous trees as part of their main duties and then **implement management recommendations** in a specified and appropriate timescale. This course will appeal to arboriculturists and tree inspectors who are required to make the final decision on tree safety issues.

The training takes three days and combines classroom based tutorials with PowerPoint presentation with both indoor and outdoor workshop sessions. Workbooks are provided and include an example of a recording proforma. A copy of Arboricultural Association Guidance Note 7 'Tree Surveys, a Guide to Good Practice' is also included as part of the package. As the training is Lantra Awards accredited, delegates successfully completing the assessment will receive a certificate of basic training.

Course members must be experienced in tree inspection, carrying out tree surveys and making management recommendations. Ideally they should hold a level 3 (NQF) qualification in arboriculture or be able to demonstrate an equivalent level of technical knowledge relating to legislation and general arboricultural practice, plant science, fungi, pests and diseases, tree mechanics, etc. The assessment at the end of the course will include aspects of these topics and assumes this level of knowledge to be pre -requisite for attending the course.

Course objectives

- Recognise the legal obligations of inspecting trees for risk management purposes
- State the potential liabilities and statute laws for the tree owner and inspector
- Summarise how a tree system functions, what constitutes a healthy tree (Shigo)
- Develop a methodology for carrying out a visual tree inspection at an advanced level with the aid of binoculars, mallet and probe
- Collect data in accordance with inspection instructions in a suitable format
- Recognise a range of observable mechanical and biological defects (Matheck)
- Identify a range of pests, diseases and disorders and know their significance
- State appropriate control measures to reduce or eliminate risk
- Prioritise control measures by evaluating hazard
- Identify when decay detection/measuring devices should be employed.

Contents

- 1 Safe practice, Personal Protective Equipment and insurance
- 2 Legal framework: tree owner, tree inspector, statutes, government advice and arboricultural advice
- 3 Reviewing basic tree survey and inspection objectives
- 4 The tree: as a dynamic living system (Shigo,) as an undamaged self optimised structure and the law of minimal lever arm and strategy of flexibility (Matheck)
- 5 Visual Tree Assessment (VTA)
- 6 Principal fungal decay organisms
- 7 Mechanical symptoms of defects
- 8 Tree inspection equipment
- 9 Recording of data
- 10 Making and writing management recommendations
- 11 Tree inspection and recording of data exercises and evaluations
- 12 Risk Evaluation
- 13 Introduction to decay detection and measuring equipment
- 14 Assessment of delegates.

Recommended Reference Material etc. for Professional Tree Inspection course (please note those items appearing as * are considered essential.)

1. *Lonsdale, D. (1999). Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment and Management, Research for Amenity Trees No, 7, Stationery Office, London.
2. *Mattheck, C. & Breloer, H. (1994). The Body Language of Trees, Research for Amenity Trees No, 4, Stationery Office, London.
3. *Strouts, R.G. & Winter, T.G. (1994). Diagnosis of Ill Health in Trees, Research for Amenity Trees No, 2, Stationery Office, London.
4. Davis, C., Fay, N & Mynors, C. (2000). Veteran Trees: a guide to risk and responsibility. English Nature, Peterborough.
5. Shigo, A.L. (1991). Modern Arboriculture. Shigo & Tree Associates, Durham, NH, USA.
6. Weber, K., & Mattheck, C. (2003). Manual of Wood Decay in Trees, The Arboricultural Association.
7. BS 3998: 1989 'Recommendations for Tree Work' (with 1990 amendment) British Standards Institute, London.
8. Tree identification book(s)