



Tree Health/Risk Assessment

Seattle Tree Care uses the Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) method that encompasses three levels of assessment which are listed below (Level I, II & III). Following the steps outlined in this method, our ISA Qualified Tree Risk Assessors can evaluate the health and condition of your trees and the associated risks. We can also give recommendations for risk reduction such as pruning, cabling or removal as well as long-term maintenance recommendations for your trees. If conditions cannot be adequately assessed at the specified level, the Assessor may recommend a higher level or different assessment.

Preliminary Visual Tree Assessment (Level 1)

A Preliminary Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) consists of a visual inspection conducted by one of our ISA Certified Arborists who are knowledgeable about tree health and hazard risk assessment, particularly relating to trees in the urban environment. This level of assessment is designed to be conducted quickly to provide basic information about a tree's condition. The VTA is a ground-based assessment and is not meant to be a complete and comprehensive evaluation of a tree. The Preliminary VTA might be appropriate for a homeowner who wants more information about the trees on their property. Along with looking at the general condition of your tree we also take into account site conditions and site history to help make our determination of a tree's overall health and potential risk. This service includes up to a 30 minute onsite visit and a verbal report of recommendations for any remedial work such as pruning or removal. If further evaluation is needed, then an Advanced Visual Tree Assessment may be recommended (see below).

Advanced Visual Tree Assessment (Level 2)

An Advanced VTA is a more in-depth evaluation of a tree and includes completion of an ISA Hazard Tree Evaluation Form in the field as well as a report of conclusions and recommendations. This level of evaluation is usually required for a homeowner who wants to remove a tree from their property that is of exceptional size or in an environmentally critical area such as a wetland or steep slope. This onsite Level 2 VTA includes evaluating tree health, damage and/or hazards, photo documentation, and gathering other information as needed to document the reasoning behind our professional recommendation.

Advanced Visual Tree Assessment (Level 3)

An Advanced VTA (Level 3) using non-invasive methods such as an aerial survey of the tree to get a closer look at the canopy or utilizing a sonic microhammer device to measure internal decay of the tree.