

# Glemson Horticulture Student Essay

## Nature's Nurse *by Elisabeth Smith*



Regularly assessing the health of trees is an extremely important task. There are three steps to assessing the health of a tree. The first step includes a complete visual survey around the tree to look for deformities in the bark, leaning, and mushrooms. The second step is to take a rubber mallet, one can find at any local hardware store, and hit the tree listening for a hollow or solid sound. The third step is to have a professional conduct a resistograph that involves drilling into the tree to produce a resistograph that will show drops in the graph indicating weak spots in the tree with less resistance (P. Minerva, Tree health assessment demonstration, November 7, 2013).

Risk management is important to preventing accidents. In 2010, a young girl was killed and her mother severely injured by a falling tree branch in Central Park.

There is debate over who is responsible for the accident (Grynbaum, 2010). The accident shows the importance of risk management. Risk management will not prevent every accident, but it can drastically reduce the amount of accidents. The article does not state when the tree's last inspection occurred, but a recent inspection could have alerted maintenance workers to the possible danger, allowing workers to take the appropriate action. Examining each tree once every two years is a good method to ensuring each tree gets an appropriate amount of attention (P. Minerva, Tree health assessment demonstration, November 7, 2013).

### *Literature Cited*

Grynbaum, M. M. (2010, June 27). Accident at park puts focus on trees. *The New York Times*.

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