Hazard Tree Safety

Hazard trees, both dead snags and live green trees, are one of the most common risks encountered on the fireline. All firefighters should frequently scan overhead to identify any trees that are leaning over their work area.

Situation Awareness

Environment:

- Current and forecasted winds.
- Night operations.
- Steep slopes.
- Diseased or bug-kill areas.
- Number and height of hazard trees.
- Anticipated burn-down time.
- Potential for trees to domino.

Hazard tree indicators:

- Trees burning for any period of time.
- High-risk tree species (rot and shallow roots).
- Numerous downed trees.
- Dead, broken, or burning tops, and limbs overhead.
- Accumulation of downed limbs.
- Absence of needles, bark, or limbs.
- Leaning or hung-up trees.