EMERALD ASH BORER and
WHAT YOU DON’T KNOW ABOUT
ASH TREE FAILURE COULD:

Check one…

A: Cause you injury  □
B: Cause your death  □
C: Cause property damage □
D: All of the above □

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AND THE ANSWER IS:

A: Cause you injury
B: Cause your death
C: Cause property damage
D: All of the above
Safety Moment reminder:
Just cause you think you know how...doesn’t mean you should!

Possible Darwin Award candidate?
**DISCLAIMER:**

This presentation is meant to inform you of potential hazards related to EAB killed Ash trees and catastrophic failures that may cause injury, property/equipment damages or possible death to workers/bystanders. It is **NOT** intended to provide specific guidance or remedies for safe tree removal procedures or operations on your part. The presenter of this program neither bears nor assumes any responsibility or liability for your personal actions or inactions.
Ash trees are everywhere...

- Roads
- Homes
- Commercial
- Schools/Parks
Every type of utility & public infrastructure is going to be impacted to some degree
Dead/dying roadside trees...definite OH utility line conflicts (likely ~50% of the time; maybe on both sides of the roads too...and well beyond the edge of the roads & ROWs!)
Typically... “normal”
dead Ash tend to
piece down over
time once they die.

We all know that...!
This is what you’re going to start seeing...after as little as only 1-2 years!

But once EAB kills the tree...
Small to **NO** loads or stresses cause limbs or whole trees to break & shatter…
Limb fractures occur very close to stem (<24”)

The force needed to break a healthy 1” limb now breaks a 5” dead limb!

(Davey Tree Research Lab Dr. Anand Persad)
Wood rapidly dries out, becoming brittle.

Massive, **unpredictable** structural failures often result!
Stem failures can be catastrophic, typically <24” above grade & **often under NO loads!**
This is the impact zone of a failed Ash in a wind event, *only* 14 months after EAB infestation!
Storm events when dead Ash trees are involved…

now yield more significant debris & damages…to trees & to property!
For those that snowplow...fallen (falling!) dead Ash trees are going to present a real challenge... especially when they’ve fallen onto the road in the dark and are buried in the snow!
KALAMAZOO, MI — “Dead ash trees have a unique way of falling. Instead of dropping a limb here and there, then rotting within the trunk, they stand erect in death... right up until they crash to the ground, ...whole.”

Can you now **trust your life** when tying in to or rigging a dead Ash tree?

The message...**never trust dead Ash!!!**
Other concerns:

• A walk in the woods will no longer be an easy ‘walk in the park’!
• Hunting will have a whole new set of safety threats.
• Hanging a deer stand in, or near an Ash tree may be suicidal!
• Fishing along creek banks, ponds or lakes may be a hazardous past-time.
• XC skiing may not be too much fun!
• Golfers have a whole new ‘hazard’ that may add injury or death!

Where are your Ash trees in the community?

nationalgrid
Tree removals should **ONLY** be done using bucket trucks, a crane...
backyard lifts or supported and working from a strong, solid adjoining tree!
ALL in the industry will face new challenges and added costs for worker safety!
Do **NOT** trust Ash trees that have been standing dead for more than 1-2 years! They are not the tree you think they are… or what you knew! They could fail catastrophically and unexpectedly at any time! Is **your life** worth that risk?

* Davey Tree now bans climbers in Ash if >20% dead!
You’ll need to reconsider your work:

- Climbing  - Rigging  - Felling  - Pre-Job briefs
  - Size of wood lowered on ropes
  - Shock loading  - Weather
  - Access by equipment
- Proximity of structures/OH conductors
  - Front yard work vs. back yard work
  - Pricing  - Equipment needs
- And…potentially even refusals to do the work when considered unsafe *(just walk away!)*

**YOUR SAFETY MUST TAKE PRIORITY!**
Work safe…so you can go home just tired and dirty at the end of the day