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## Guide to the Topping, Crown Thinning or Removal of Danger Trees

### How Do I Obtain Authorization to Top, Crown Thin or Fall a Danger Tree on Crown Land adjacent to my Property?

When you identify a tree(s), on Crown Land adjacent to your property, that you believe is a potential hazard to your safety or improvements, submit a package with the following to the Squamish Forest District:

- An “Application for Licence to Cut” (Form FS321). This form can be downloaded from the following Internet website:  
<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/pscripts/isb/forms/forms.asp>
- A letter indicating the reason you want to top, crown thin or fall the tree(s) the number of trees to be felled and if you want to utilize the tree that has been felled.
- Photographs showing how these trees are potentially dangerous to your property or improvements, which include an identifiable object to indicate the scale of the photos. Please indicate the location from which the photos were taken on the required map.
- Unless the tree(s) is dead or it shows obvious signs of instability or damage, submit a report from a wildlife/danger tree assessor\* or a licensed arborist that concludes the tree(s) is hazardous and, therefore, recommends the topping, crown thinning or removal of the tree(s).
- A copy of a map that indicates the location of the hazard tree(s) in relation to your property boundaries. Indicate the location of the trees by marking an ‘X’ at their location, and also include the species and diameter (at 1.3 meters above the ground) for each tree.

\*wildlife/danger tree assessor – an individual who has successfully completed a wildlife/danger tree assessors course recognized by the WorkSafeBC.



Please note it is your responsibility to ensure that your proposed tree cutting is in compliance with any applicable local municipal or regional district tree cutting bylaws. Also, if you propose to cut trees located on a highway right-of-way, a permit (Permission to Construct Works Within Crown Land) must be obtained from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) prior to contacting this office.

If you were required and have received a permit for works from MOTI, please include a copy of your authorization letter in the above noted package. Please note that MOTI does not authorize the cutting of the tree(s) unless it is deemed to be an immediate safety hazard.

### **What Happens To The Crown Timber That I Am Authorized To Cut?**

As part of the review which district staff will conduct when we receive your request to fall and/or remove danger trees, an assessment will be made of the quantity and quality of the timber that you propose to cut. If the assessment determines the volume and quality is marketable, you can:

- a) Request permission to remove the trees, in which case you would be required to pay stumpage on the timber, or
- b) You may be required to pile the timber at an accessible location for a future timber sale of harvested Crown timber.

If you are required to pile the timber for a future timber sale licence for harvested timber, the forestry licence to cut issued to you will have provisions indicating that this timber is to be piled, and cannot be sold or traded.

Generally for small volumes, you will be issued a forestry licence to cut authorizing you to cut down the hazard tree(s) and utilize the wood for personal use.

The Crown is not liable for costs associated with the cutting and/or removal of danger trees. All costs must be fully borne by the applicant.

### **Whom Do I Contact If I Have Any Questions?**

You may contact the Tenures Technician at the Squamish Forest District for additional information.