



INTRODUCTION

Respiratory illness and injury in arboriculture are not heavily researched. Despite this, arborists report experiencing the negative health effects that come with inhaling noxious tree species and their organic materials. The by-products of tree species such as London Plane and Sycamores can be hazardous to your lung health. It is important to know how to protect both yourself and your crew.

DESCRIBE the hazards

Some trees in Ontario that may present respiratory hazards could include London Plane, trees suffering from Sooty Bark Disease, and Sycamores. General wood dust, in particular from dead trees may also be hazardous. The hazard varies depending on several factors including personal health history, use of personal protective equipment, amount inhaled and length of exposure.

Some common acute symptoms could include:

- ◆ Wheezing
- ◆ Coughing
- ◆ Sneezing
- ◆ Increased mucous
- ◆ Flu-like symptoms
- ◆ Eye irritation
- ◆ Irritation to the nasal passage and throat
- ◆ Allergic reactions

It is important to recognize that although you may only feel ill for a short

period of time, continuous exposure with a lack of protective measures can lead to development of chronic illness and make you more susceptible to respiratory illnesses in the future.

DISCUSS control measures

There are several methods of control you and your crew can use to protect your lung health.

- ◆ When working on hazardous species, try to work in wetter weather to help diminish the number of spores and organic materials/dusts you are exposed to.
- ◆ Wear the appropriate PPE when avoidance of inhaling the by-products is not possible. Including a respirator that fits appropriately, eye goggles and gloves.
- ◆ When chipping, try to position the chipper downwind so the dust blows away from the chipper.
- ◆ Take time off work when you are experiencing the symptoms listed above.
- ◆ Ensure you are staying hydrated throughout the day. Dehydration can increase the thickness of mucus accumulated in the respiratory tract.

DEMONSTRATE knowledge

- ◆ Demonstrate that you know how to identify a noxious tree that can be hazardous to lung health .
- ◆ Demonstrate that you and your crew know where to access PPE on site, what PPE is appropriate for the job, and how to properly wear and use PPE.

Date: _____

Location: _____

Presenter: _____

MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY
(Each participant is to sign below)
