

Trees at risk? A Swiss debate on the liability of Urban Trees

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How can risks caused by urban trees be managed? On 12th September 2018, ArboCityNet (www.arbocitynet.ch), the Swiss network for urban forestry, organized a conference concerning the risk that urban trees and forests close to urban areas could



provoke. Several experts from Switzerland such as foresters, gardeners, researchers and representatives from different administrations, discussed the liability of these risks and had the possibility to share their experiences. The predominant tenor of the discussion was that even though liability issues are not clearly defined, it is crucial to have forests

in and close to urban areas. An important reason is that forests and trees provide important functions to society, such as the reduction of the effects of climate change. Methods, such as visual analysis, statistical risk assessment, as well as having a transparent concept of trees management are crucial tools to clarify liability issues in urban forest areas. Finally, promoting a risk-dialogue between the different stakeholders involved is a necessary condition to facilitate the understanding of certain measures, as well as the acceptance of certain risks.

