Selkirk Forest District:
Removing Danger Trees on Crown Land

How do I obtain Authorization to limb or Remove 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 information to the Selkirk Forest District for review. Information should be submitted by email to: FOR.SelkirkDistrictOffice@gov.bc.ca

1) Full name, address, phone number and legal description of your property
2) A copy of a map or screenshot that indicates the location of the hazardous tree(s) in relation to your property boundary. Indicate the location of the tree(s) by marking an "X" at their location and include the species of the tree (if known)
3) Photographs that show how the tree is potentially dangerous to your property or improvements, which include identifiable objects to indicate the scale of the photo. Include a description of the location from which the photos were taken.
4) 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 that the tree(s) is hazardous and, therefore, recommends the topping, crowing thinning or removal of the tree(s).

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

- *Incomplete packages will not be reviewed.*

What happens after I submit the package?

District staff will review your application and determine if it is on Crown Land and the information meets the criteria for removal of a danger tree. If the District determines the application information meets the criteria, you may be issued an authorization to cut down the danger tree(s) for personal firewood use.

The Crown is not liable for the costs associated with the removal of the danger tree. These costs must be fully borne by the proponent who wishes to cut and remove the tree.

Danger trees within municipal boundaries will need to be approved by the municipality prior to cutting and follow all applicable municipal and/or regional district tree cutting bylaws.

Where the District cannot determine the application meets the criteria for danger tree removal, District staff may conduct further inquiry on your application to assess of the quantity and quality of the timber that you propose to cut. If the assessment determines that the volume and quality are marketable, you may be required to deck the timber at an accessible location for a future sale of harvested Crown timber.

Also note that the Ministry of Transportation and Transit (MOTT) has jurisdiction over all activities within gazetted highway right of ways. Concerns over danger trees located within these areas should be referred directly to MOTT.