

**Event Type:** Art show

**Incident:** Struck by overhead object

**Narrative**

On Saturday, September 20, 2008, an art show was being held in Winter Park, FL. This event has been held in Winter Park, FL for over thirty-five years. This annual art show books in over two hundred exhibitors. Each exhibitor is allotted a 10'x10' booth space. In addition to exhibitors, food vendors and retail outlets are also available. The art show takes full advantage of the natural settings of the park. The art show was in its second day. They expected about 10,000 people over the period of the day. At around 3:00 pm Saturday afternoon a storm was approaching the park. The crowd was thinning out as a result of the storm, but there were still plenty of people on hand. A guest was walking through the art show making his way to his car. He stopped to look at a piece of art. Soon after entering the booth, he felt a strong gust of wind and decided he better double-time it back to his car. As he stepped out of the booth a tree branch struck him on the top of his head. The weight and force of the branch knocked him to the ground breaking his neck. It was determined that the branch weighed 15 pounds and was rotten. The park was inspected 7 days prior to the event. It had stormed 5 of the 7 days leading up to the event. Rotten tree limbs were a known hazard at the park by officials.

**Problem statements**

- Should an inspection have taken place closer to the event date? How often should they take place? Why?
- Was an adequate inspection performed?
- Who should have performed the inspection(s)? Could anybody perform the inspection? Why or why not?
- Do certain laws prevent the removal and cutting down of trees, etc.? How can these laws impact an event?
- Should someone have been monitoring the weather? What kind of warning plan should have been in place for inclement weather? How should they have alerted people?
- Should there have been a crowd management/control plan? How should they have evacuated people from the park?
- Should exhibitors been allowed to continue showing art? Why or why not?
- Considering this was a known hazard, how does this impact the situation?
- Before reopening the art show what should city officials do? Why?
- If they do nothing what could happen? Especially, if another person is injured...