



## **Sudden Catastrophic Limb Failures 2025**

- **April 18<sup>th</sup>**                      **1415 1<sup>st</sup> Street (ROW)**                      **Royal Poinciana**
- **June 25<sup>th</sup>**                      **1123 Whitehead St. (ROW)**                      **Cuban Mahogany**
- **August 4<sup>th</sup>**                      **16<sup>th</sup> St (ROW)**                      **Tropical Almond**
- **August 10<sup>th</sup>**                      **401 Duval St. (St. Paul's Church)**                      **Royal Poinciana**
- **August 30<sup>th</sup>**                      **906 Windsor Ln (Parking Lot)**                      **Spanish Lime**
- **September 1<sup>st</sup>**                      **717 Simonton St (Trinity Church)**                      **Royal Poinciana**
- **September 8<sup>th</sup>**                      **Poorhouse Ln (Bill Butler Park)**                      **Royal Poinciana**
- **September 17<sup>th</sup>**                      **706 Amelia St. (ROW)**                      **Royal Poinciana**
- **October 5<sup>th</sup>**                      **Key West Cemetery (2<sup>nd</sup> Street)**                      **Royal Poinciana**
- **October 13<sup>th</sup>**                      **919 White St. (ROW)**                      **Royal Poinciana**

Ten documented trees in 2025 have had catastrophic failures. Fortunately, no one was hurt in the instances listed. Hazard trees in Key West have become a real problem. In some cases, the trunks straddle property lines obscuring responsibility. The risk level in most cases is high because our island density places targets around just about every tree. The presence of targets and the high value of the targets leads to a high or extreme level of risk assessed to these hazard trees. In many cases the trees do not present a discernable defect. These sudden limb failures have led to emergency removal permits or Tree Commission approved removals. The list is comprised of 4 species. Royal Poincianas constitute 70% of the trees on the list. If this problem was proportional the percentage of Royal Poincianas would be between 20-30%. There is supporting scientific evidence that the Royal Poinciana Tree's viability is significantly diminished in Key West due to its foreign origin and lack of inherent resilience making it more susceptible to pests, pathogens and wind events. We humbly request the Tree Commission ponder the facts we have presented so we can circle back to have a question and answer at the next meeting.

