



The importance of termite inspections - tragedy reminds us all

This tragedy is a timely reminder for all regarding the importance of termite inspections on a regular basis. It may be useful to provide landlords with this information as a reminder and recommendation for a termite inspection at their rental property. [Members of Real Estate Excellence](#), a reminder there is best practice letter to provide to landlords in PME folder 13 (QLD member offices), folder 12 (NSW offices) at [Member online](#). Alternatively members, please [email us](#) to receive the best practice letter.

Darwin woman visiting her daughter in Cairns has died in hospital after a palm tree fell on her in a freak accident

Janessa Ekert, The Cairns Post
June 5, 2017 5:00am

- [Woman critical after palm tree falls on her](#)

A DARWIN woman visiting her daughter in Cairns has died in hospital after she was crushed under a palm tree.

Vallely St resident Geoff Reid said the wind gusts had been hammering the quiet Freshwater suburb on the day of the freak accident last Thursday.

“I was working on my car, actually, and I heard a crack ... and thought oh God that sounds like a tree,” he said.

Just moments before Mr Reid had seen the woman standing out the front of the units, near the road, waiting to be picked up by a friend.



media_camera A woman has been injured by a falling palm tree at Freshwater.

Believed to be from Darwin, she was staying with her daughter who was a resident at the unit block.

“There’s bullets of wind coming through,” said Mr Reid who lives opposite the address.

“I walked out and had a look and saw the tree lying across the ground. The fronds were out towards the road.”

As he turned to walk back into his yard, Mr Reid said he heard a whimpering noise but initially thought it was a bird trapped under the tree.

“I walked over, looked over the tree and saw this lady lying there,” he said.

He used his first aid training to make sure there was no more danger and that her airways were clear.

He yelled for his wife to call an ambulance while another neighbour brought the woman a blanket.

Mr Reid said when he tried to get an initial response from the woman, she was just whimpering in pain.

“Then she kept saying, I can’t breathe ... and kept wanting to move,” he said.

Mr Reid tried to keep her still and calm while the ambulance was on its way.

The palm tree was pinning her ankle.

Mr Reid said he and others helped firefighters shift the tree so paramedics could reach the woman. He said the tragic incident had left him in shock.

“You just don’t think something like that will happen,” he said. “When I went over and saw her I thought, oh my God.”

Neighbours said the foxtail palm had been planted when the unit block was built about 23 years ago.

A Cairns Hospital spokeswoman yesterday confirmed the woman had died.

Originally published as [‘You just don’t think something like that will happen’](#)

Termite-riddled palm tree crushes woman to death

A woman has reportedly died in hospital after being crushed by a falling palm tree in far north Queensland last week.

Paramedics said the palm tree fell after it had been weakened by termites and crushed the woman leaving her in a serious condition.



A woman died in Cairns Hospital after a palm tree fell on her. Photo: Robert Rough
She was taken to Cairns Hospital where she has reportedly died.

AAP

www.brisbanetimes.com.au May 5 2017