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The scene in Victoria Square in Cambridge where a pin oak fell, trapping a woman who later died in hospital. Photo: Mary Anne Gill

A woman who sheltered from the bad weather under a pin oak tree in Cambridge's Victoria Square has died in Waikato Hospital after the tree fell and trapped her under it.

The woman was treated at the scene by St John Ambulance and taken to hospital in a critical condition where she later died.

A Fire and Emergency NZ spokesperson said they had been called to the tree fall about 10am on Friday May 20. The woman was freed at 10.48am.



The pin tree oak roots. Photo: Mary Anne Gill

The tree was a pin oak (*Quercus palustris*) which contractors TreeScape later cleared from the scene along with the tree alongside it.

The pin oak tree was around 80-years old and was healthy. It was pruned at the beginning of April.

Council arborists have now inspected the tree and have confirmed all roots were healthy. There have been no previous concerns about the tree which was removed today. Clean up will continue next week.

Group manager customer and community services Sally Sheedy said the tree appears to have been blown over in "freakishly" high winds.

"It has been described to me as a mini-tornado which look to have lifted a perfectly healthy tree out of the ground. Our concern and thoughts now are with the person who was trapped and we sincerely thank those who acted so quickly to help."