Falling trees are always a hazard when traveling in the forest.

Following these guidelines will help recreationists avoid risks.

- Be aware of your surroundings. Avoid dense patches of dead trees. They can fall without warning.

- Stay out of the forest when there are strong winds that could blow down trees. If you are already in the forest when the winds kick up, head to a clearing out of reach of any potential falling trees.

- Place tents and park vehicles in areas where they will not be hit if trees fall.

- When driving in remote areas of the forest, park close to a main road, rather than on a spur or one-way section. If trees fall across the road you may be trapped.

- Bring an ax or a chainsaw to remove fallen trees from roads in case you become trapped.

- Do not rely on cell phones for safety as there is no coverage in many areas of the national forest.