



**U.S. Forest Service
Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests
30 S Chiricahua Drive
Springerville, AZ 85938**

Web: www.fs.usda.gov/asnf

Twitter: @A_SNFs

www.facebook.com/apachesitgreavesnf

News Release

**Media Contact: Marta Call
928-333-6280
martaicall@fs.fed.us**



Fall Hunting in the White Mountains

Springerville, AZ; September 9, 2016--The Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests (ASNFs) would like to remind hunters of potential hazards in the woods. Increased situational awareness is especially important for hunters traveling within the Wallow Fire, San Juan and Rodeo-Chediski fire burned areas. Remember to look up, look down, and look all around. Snags and dead trees, flash floods, and unstable soils are just a few of the hazards to be aware of. Hunters are encouraged to carry the means to remove fallen trees, such as a chainsaw or handsaw, which may block their access on roads. Although the monsoon season will soon be winding down, visitors should continue to exercise caution and alertness in these areas as rainstorms can still occur and the risk for flooding exists. Depending on weather and road conditions, the ASNFs may close campgrounds or roads for the sake of public safety. Visitors are encouraged to contact the local ranger district for the current status of campgrounds and roads before heading out to the woods.

HUNTER SAFETY: Hunter education is not mandated in Arizona, with the exception being youth ages 10 through 13, who **are** required to have a valid hunter education certification from Arizona or other approved program to participate in a big game hunt (10 is the minimum age to hunt big game). However, all hunters are encouraged to wear "hunter orange" in all hunting situations - except spring turkey season - and to remember Arizona's safe hunter's slogan: tab plus one (T.A.B. +1): **T**reat every gun as if it were loaded; **A**lways keep your muzzle pointed in a safe direction; **B**e sure of your target and beyond; **+1** Keep your finger outside the trigger guard until ready to shoot.

Safety is no accident. Please visit the AZ Game and Fish Department web site for more information on hunting in Arizona <http://www.azgfd.gov/index.shtml>.

If you have a permit to hunt in a Game Management Unit that includes the ASNFs, please contact the appropriate ranger district for updated information relative to motor vehicle use and motorized big game retrieval, before your hunt starts.

Follow the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests on Facebook at www.facebook.com/apachesitgreavesnfs and on Twitter @A_SNFs.