

Common Hazards while Recreating in Post-Fire Landscapes

Please use caution when venturing to your picking area. Due to this year's snow pack, roads at higher elevations may remain impassible due to snow and debris through June! Also rivers and creeks are typically running very high and can be dangerous.

Be aware of your surroundings. Burn areas can be very dangerous due to the high number of hazard trees that may be present. A "hazard tree" is a tree that has a structural defect that makes it likely to fail in whole or in part. Falling trees are an ever-present hazard when traveling or camping in the forest, yet too often we are unaware of the risks associated with defective trees. Trees are defective from age, fire and/or disease.

Keep these safety tips in mind:

- *Be aware of your surroundings as trees can fall without warning. Be particularly watchful when it's windy or following a snowstorm when branches are covered with snow. Avoid parking or camping in areas where trees could fall.*
- *Avoid dense patches of dead trees. Limbs and damaged trees may fall at any time. Trees without needles, bark or limbs may indicate structural defects. Trees with conks, broken tops, basal scars, numerous downed limbs, ants, or an abundance of woodpecker holes may have internal rot.*
- *Beware of hazardous trees due to ice storm or insect damage. Ice storms can inflict serious damage to trees, uprooting or breaking off large limbs. Cracks can develop in large branches which, although they are damaged, do not fall from the tree. Such branches can present a hazard to people or property long after the ice has melted.*
- *Look up while on trails, especially when it's windy. Stay out of the forest when there are strong winds that could blow down trees. If you are already in the forest when winds kick up, head to a clearing out of reach of any potential falling trees.*
- *Park close to a main road rather than on a spur or one-way section when driving in remote areas of the forest to avoid being trapped if a tree falls across the road.*



Wildlife Safety

Store all food in a bear resistant manner to avoid unhealthy interactions with wildlife. **If a grizzly or black bear is attracted to camp, whomever attracted the bear to camp may lose their camping/harvesting permits and receive a citation.** Please review the 'Visitors Guide to Recreating in Bear Country' brochure to learn how to store food while on Forest Service lands.

Remember: You are responsible for your own safety and for the safety of those around you.