

# Frequently Asked Questions: Danger Tree Removal

Intense wildfires can result in standing dead and fire-weakened danger trees along roadways. These danger trees can fall unpredictably, causing injury or death to people and damage property or infrastructure.

## 5 Why can't all the danger trees be cut and left on-site?

Leaving all danger trees felled on-site **may prevent forest revegetation and cause other safety issues**, such as the accumulation of hazardous fuel loads. Heavy fuel loads, like dead and downed danger trees, can increase wildfire risk.

## 4 What happens to danger trees after they're cut?

- **Left on-site:** Felled trees can assist with erosion control. Trees within riparian reserves and known cultural sites are generally left on site.
- **Restoration projects:** Logs can be used for fish structure, stream enhancement, riparian restoration, and wildlife habitat.
- **Cultural or community use:** Wood can be given to Tribes for cultural use or offered to local communities through firewood permits.
- **Commerical use:** Wood can be sold to local mills. The funds from these sales can benefit wildfire recovery, watershed restoration, and reforestation projects.

## 1 Why are danger trees cut?

**Our top priority is life-safety.** Removing fire-weakened and/or killed danger trees along roads reduces risk of injury or death to the public and our employees.

**We cannot reopen roads until these danger trees are mitigated.** Road closures delay critical wildfire recovery and infrastructure repair work.

## 2 Are all trees along roads in fire-impacted areas cut?

**No. Only those trees that have a potential to strike the road will be felled.** Roads typically have varying levels of fire-killed or injured trees depending on how severely the fire burned in the area.

There can be sections of road where there are no danger trees, others with scattered or small groups of danger trees, and more where all trees within striking distance of the road were killed by wildfire.

## 3 What about in areas other than roads or developed areas?

Danger tree removal occurs where fire-killed or weakened trees pose a safety risk to the public, employees, and/or infrastructure.

**The vast majority of the forestland inside the burn perimeters will receive no danger tree removal.**

