



United States Department of Agriculture

**Forest Service**

Allegheny National Forest

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Web: [www.fs.usda.gov/allegheny/](http://www.fs.usda.gov/allegheny/)



# News Release

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## Camper fatally injured during thunderstorm on the Allegheny NF

**Warren, Pa.** (June 24, 2015) – A fierce thunderstorm in northwestern Pennsylvania resulted in the death of a camper who was camping with a church group in a remote area of the Allegheny National Forest. The storm came through the Minister Creek Campground around 6:00 a.m. causing power outages and wide-spread downed trees.

A fifteen-year-old girl from New Brighton, PA, was fatally injured and two other campers were injured from a falling tree. A third camper later complained of a headache and received medical attention. The campers were taken to the Cherry Grove Volunteer Fire Department in Clarendon, PA where community volunteers provided food and care until the Red Cross arrived. The campers returned to the Pine Valley Bible Camp in Ellwood City, Pa that evening.

Multiple state, county and local emergency response organizations provided assistance. The Warren County Sheriff's Department and volunteer fire departments from Sheffield, Cherry Grove, Clarendon, Pleasant, Ludlow, Kane, Marienville, West Hickory and Tionesta worked hard to clear trees and help evacuate the campers. A state helicopter provided medical transport. "The help we received from the community was phenomenal," said Forest Supervisor Sherry Tune. "I saw the care and compassion in the faces of every person who helped during this tragic event and I want to express my gratitude to them."

Finally, because of the number of downed trees in the area and the need to conduct a risk assessment, the Allegheny has issued a temporary emergency closure order to close part of the Minister Creek Hiking Trail. "We need to evaluate the extent of the damage and get the work done so we can reopen as soon as possible," said Tune. The two loops closest to the campground will remain open, as will the North Country Trail at the northern part of the trail. Information about the status of the Minister Creek Hiking Trail will be posted on the Allegheny's website: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/allegheny/>.

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