



Know Before You Go

Preparing to Visit a National Forest

Hurricanes

With winds of 74 mph or more, hurricanes are seasonal storms that develop over a large body of warm water. When reaching a land mass, they typically bring torrential rains, high waves, a storm surge, damaging winds and devastation. Lightning and tornadoes are also possible.

According to the National Hurricane Center; on average, 11 tropical storms develop each year over the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico or Caribbean Sea, five of which will strike the U.S. coastline, killing 50-100 people.



Although a hurricane's intensity, speed and direction is unpredictable, it can be easily tracked by weather experts, allowing travelers and forest visitors to be prepared in advanced, by monitoring hurricane weather alerts and warnings.

Safety Checklist

- Avoid visiting an area that is predicted to be in the path of an approaching hurricane.
- Always notify family or an emergency contact about your travel location before visiting a forest.
- Get to a safe, indoor location before a tropical storm or hurricane approaches your area.
- If you are caught outside, find a clear spot away from buildings, trees, streetlights and power lines.
- If you are in a vehicle, pull over to a clear location, stop and stay there with your seatbelt fastened.
 - Avoid large trees, power lines, poles, street signs and other overhead items.
- Have a hurricane preparedness kit, especially if you live and travel in hurricane-prone areas.
- Visit www.noaa.gov for weather updates and detailed information about hurricane preparedness.