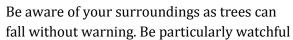


KNOW Before You Go!

Hazard Trees

A "Hazard Tree" is a tree that has a structural defect which 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.



when it's windy or following a snowstorm when branches are covered with snow. Avoid parking or camping in areas where trees could fall. Remember, safety is your responsibility.



Checklist

forest.

any closure signs.

Numerous down or leaning trees—Be aware of your surroundings and avoid dense
patches of dead trees. Limbs and damaged trees may fall at any time. Absence of needles,
bark, or limbs may also indicate structural defects. Possibility of rot is indicated by conks,
broken tops, basal scars, cat faces, numerous down limbs, ants, abundance of woodpecker
holes.
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 pre
sent a hazard to people or property long after the ice has melted.
Strong winds may weaken unstable trees .—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. Place tents and park
vehicles in areas where they will not be hit if a tree falls.
Do not rely on cell phones for safety, as there is no coverage in many areas of the national

☐ **General safety**—Control your campfire, and make sure it is "dead out" when you leave. Obey