

Know Before You Go

Post Wildfire Safety Hazards

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In areas that have been severely burned, post wildfire risks may last for two years or more. However, the increased risk of floods or debris flows in severely burned areas may persist much longer. This is especially true in areas that have also experienced prolonged drought conditions.



Caution must be exercised at all times when travelling in or through areas impacted by wildfire. Significant safety hazards may be present, including:

DANGER TREES

Fire or otherwise damaged trees that have become unstable and could fall over without warning. Look for signs of damage and, if unsure, have a certified Danger Tree Assessor review the area for hazards. The risk of trees falling increases when wind or rain is present.

INCREASED WATER RUNOFF

A severe wildfire damages the forest canopy, as well as the smaller plants and soil below the trees. After intense rainfall or a rapid snowmelt, increased water runoff can put homes and other structures below the burned area at risk of localized floods, landslides or debris flows.

INCREASED RISK OF LANDSLIDES OR ROCK FALLS The loss of stumps, logs and roots that normally hold soil and loose rocks in place increase the risk of landslides or rock falls.

ASH PITS

Ash pits are often hard to detect and can remain hot long after flames have died down. They pose significant tripping hazards and can cause severe burns and injuries. Avoid walking in the black area of the fire, as they may be present for days, weeks or longer.

UNSTABLE SOILS AND DAMAGED OR IRREGULAR TERRAIN AND TRAIL SURFACES

Areas where trees have been broken or uprooted increase the risk of injury from unstable debris. Heavy precipitation can affect soil integrity, increasing the risk of trees falling and washing out transportation routes with mud.

DAMAGED FENCING

Damaged fencing could allow livestock to enter roadways.



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