



Responding to **Tree Mortality** on National Forests in California

Be Aware!

Trees stressed from drought, increasing temperatures and bark beetles are dying in numbers never seen before.

Dead trees can fall unexpectedly and are creating dry fuels for wildfires. Be aware when traveling in your National Forests and know your escape routes!



Forest
Service

Pacific Southwest
Region

- Dry fuels from dead trees can cause wildfires to spread quickly—always plan ahead and know your escape routes.
- Trees can fall without warning. Be aware of your surroundings and avoid dense patches of dead trees.
- Winds can cause dead and dying trees to fall. If the wind picks up, head to a clearing out of reach of potentially falling trees.
- Pitch tents and park vehicles in areas where they will not be hit if trees fall.
- When driving in remote areas of the forest, park close to a main road instead of spurs or one-way routes so you have less chance of becoming trapped if a tree falls across the road.
- Bring an ax to remove fallen trees from roads if you do become trapped.
- Do not rely solely on cell phones for safety as many areas of the National Forest do not have cell phone coverage.
- Defensible space is your property's front line of defense against wildfire—and it's state law. Go to <http://go.usa.gov/cuV29> for more information.

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