



## Press Release

**USDA FOREST SERVICE**  
**Rocky Mountain Region**  
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### **National Forest Visitors Need to Watch Out for Falling Trees because of the Mountain Pine Beetle Epidemic.**

**Denver Colo. September 8, 2009**— Forest Service officials concerned about safety want to remind you to watch out for falling trees, especially in areas affected by the 2.5 million acre mountain pine beetle epidemic.

“Public safety is our number one priority. Everyone needs to be aware of their surroundings and wind conditions where trees have been killed by the beetles,” said Mary Ann Chambers, public affairs officer. “Checking to see if a campground or road is open should be as important as packing your camping or picnic supplies,” she added.

#### **The following are guidelines to help you avoid risks.**

- Be aware of your surroundings. Avoid dense patches of dead trees. They can fall without warning.
- If you are in the forest when the winds increase, head to a clearing out of reach of any potential falling trees.
- Park vehicles and put camps in areas where they will not be hit if a tree falls.
- Park close to a main road; if trees fall across the road you may be trapped.
- Bring an ax or chainsaw to remove fallen trees from roads in case you become trapped.
- Don't rely on cell phones for safety since there is no coverage in many areas of the National Forest.
- Be careful with fire and never leave a campfire unattended.

In spite of the closures and delays, there are still many great places to camp and explore on the National Forests. To check the status of any campground, visit [www.fs.fed.us/r2/recreation/camping/campgroundlist](http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/recreation/camping/campgroundlist) or call the local Forest Service office for more information. Reservations for most campgrounds can be made on [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) or by calling 1-877-444-6777. For general information about the mountain pine beetle epidemic go to [www.fs.fed.us/r2/bark-beetle](http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/bark-beetle). Land management agencies have developed a site devoted to the bark beetle happenings on the Front Range; [www.frontrangepinebeetle.org](http://www.frontrangepinebeetle.org).

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