

## Watch for Wildfire Hazards

Wildfires can pose risks to firefighters and the public even after they are contained. It is important to use extreme caution and good judgment when in fire-impacted areas due to the ongoing dangers that can be difficult to identify.

**After the flames, the risks remain! Know the risks in recently burned areas:**



### Fire-Weakened Trees:

Wildfires can damage a tree's roots, trunk, and canopy. Winds can bring down fire-damaged trees and branches, causing injury and/or death. Stay out of burned forests during windy conditions, as trees are easily downed by wind.



### Unstable Structures:

Use extreme caution around trees, power poles, and other tall objects or structures that may have lost stability during the fire. Most burned structures and surfaces will be unstable. Do not touch any power lines.



### Ash Pits and Burned Stump Holes/Root Chambers:

Ash pits are an inherent and hidden risk to wildland firefighters that can cause severe burns and injuries. Ash pits are created when a ground fire consumes underground fuels creating an empty space that cannot be seen from the surface.

Burned stumps may create rather obvious large holes, but these holes may actually be bigger. In many cases, the fire may have traveled through the root chambers and consumed the woody root material leaving vacant chambers where solid wood used to be. Overtime, these root chambers will collapse. A person's body or vehicle weight on the root chambers may cause them to collapse, potentially opening a hole. Be especially wary after rain as the moisture may travel through the root chambers and make collapse easier.



### Hazardous Materials and Toxic Fumes:

The smoke within a fire area can be very dangerous. Burning building materials can emit toxic gases, releasing contaminants into the air. High temperatures during a fire can compromise hazardous material containers, leaking their contents onto the ground.



### Flash Floods, Landslides, and Mudslides:

These deadly hazards can happen during rain events and over burned areas upstream of your location. Stay away from burned forests, storm channels, steep slopes with destroyed vegetation, and drainages. Rivers, creeks, and engineered channels can carry deadly debris and water flows.

Remember, you are ultimately responsible for your own safety and well-being when recreating in fire-impacted areas:



#### DON'T LINGER IN DRAINAGES OR NEAR CREEKS

Debris flows and flash flooding can occur, especially during rain. Maintain awareness and move quickly through places where drainages cross trail or road. Don't camp in these areas.



#### WATCH FOR FALLING ROCKS AND ROLLING LOGS

Burned off vegetation creates unstable slopes. Rocks and other debris may roll from steep slopes above. Watch for trail damage – washed out and undercut areas.



#### LOOK OUT FOR TREE HAZARDS

Winds can bring down fire damaged trees and branches. When stopping or camping, look at surrounding trees and avoid those that appear weakened, particularly during strong winds.

### More Information:

**Georgetown Ranger District:**  
7600 Wentworth Springs Road



Georgetown, CA 95634

**American River Ranger District:**

22830 Foresthill Rd  
Foresthill, CA 95631



**Call:**

(530) 334-6477 (Georgetown)  
(530) 492-5631 (American River)

### Online:

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