



IMPORTANT NOTICE

The trail systems in the hills of Simi Valley and Oak Park under the jurisdiction of the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District have been widely affected by the Woolsey Fire. A burned landscape presents a number of safety hazards that either did not exist prior to the fire or are increased by the effects of the fire. Hikers are urged to be very aware of their surroundings. The following precautions are provided by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, for your consideration.

BURN AREA SAFETY

Traveling through a burned area can be dangerous. Awareness and caution regarding a wide variety of risks that exist after a fire event in open space and wooded areas is essential.

Don't enter a burn area if it is closed to public access.

Stay out of closed areas. After a wildfire, it may be necessary to keep an area closed for weeks or even years because of falling rocks or burned trees that are in danger of falling across trails. Do not enter an area before it is open.

Everything is looser than you think.

1. **Watch for falling trees.** Even if the tree looks robust, it might be at risk of falling because of damaged root systems and fire-loosened soils. As the years pass, dead root systems rot and the likelihood of the tree falling increases. **Watch for falling branches as well.** Look up often. Take note of fire-weakened trees, snags and overhead dangling branches. Do not sit down and take a break under a fire-weakened or dead tree.
2. **Windy days are especially dangerous.** Don't go out in a burn area if it's forecasted to be windy. Leave the area immediately if the wind picks up and there are hazards around you.
3. **Rainy weather is also dangerous.** Even if it's just a little rainy, the chances of landslides and flash floods goes up. Water runs more quickly off the burned soil and drainages can become clogged with trees, rocks, and debris. Debris can act like a dam, releasing a huge flash flood of water, mud, and debris that can cause damage or destruction downstream.

Landslides and rock fall danger, means you should be careful on hillsides. Stripped of its understory vegetation, burned soil is loose, so boulders, logs, and the soil can move.

Watch for burned-out holes in the ground. When stumps, root structures and duff burns, deep hollow cavities can be left below the trail surface. They may be invisible until your foot breaks through. These holes can keep burning for a long time after the rest of the fire is out. Notice white ash as it may be retaining extreme heat or be a sign of a potential sinkhole. Stay on trails in burned areas.

See something particularly dangerous? Report it.

You are our eyes and ears. Report significant hazards to us at (805) 584-4400 or contact us through our website at rsrpd.org.