



## Public Use of Burned Forest Areas: Important safety and regulation advice

Members of the public who are planning to travel in forested areas burned by last year's wildfires are encouraged to use caution at all times to protect their personal safety and forest resources.

Everyone has a stake in helping keep public forest lands healthy. Report any suspicious activities or environmental damage to local authorities.

- Rehabilitation and salvage activities are underway in many areas. Stay away from heavy equipment and do not disturb reseeded areas.
- Burned areas are especially hazardous – watch for falling trees.
- Some public roads within the fire area may be temporarily deactivated to reduce environmental concerns. This includes cross ditching and culvert removal. The Ministry of Forests would prefer no vehicle traffic on these roads.
- Drivers should have their headlights on at all times, and know that logging trucks and equipment have the right-of-way at all times.
- Poisonous mushrooms grow in B.C. and can cause sickness and even death if eaten. Pickers should be able to correctly identify what they pick.
- Mushrooms are an essential part of forest ecosystems, providing food for animals and even helping plants grow. Pickers are encouraged to practice sound picking etiquette, including leaving over-mature mushrooms behind, not disturbing the forest floor, and cutting the stem above ground.
- Mushroom picking is illegal in provincial parks, including those impacted by fires.
- Anyone venturing into wilderness areas should have the necessary knowledge, skills and equipment to protect themselves in all events, including accidents and hypothermia.
- It is the responsibility of the individual to interpret maps and ensure they are not trespassing on private land.
- Camping within burned areas is not advised.
- If you pack it in – PLEASE – pack it out!

*All users of public forest land do so at their own risk.*

### Go Online To Learn More!

The Southern Interior Region's web site has plenty of information about public use of public forest lands.

Go online for:

- fire maps
- tips for safety in burned forest areas
- mushroom picking information (identification and picking tips)
- other mushroom resources
- road use and access rules
- camping links
- fire prevention advice



[www.for.gov.bc.ca/rsi/](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/rsi/)