

Hazard Tree Dangers

Watch Out Conditions:

- Tree Canopy movement due to winds – eye level may not be indicative of tree top winds
- Thunderstorms in the vicinity to produce unexpected winds
- Dead needle drape (especially long needled pines), hung up in understory canopy or shrub level, leading to increased aerial fuels
- Areas with groups of tree mortality...look for pitch tubes or saw dust in neighboring green trees.
- Aviation – low level activity generating prop wash.
- Risk assessment not completed prior to working in a hazard tree area

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Potential Hazards

Increased potential for:

- Accelerated transition to crown fire (when needles are present)
Typically, Red Needles last for 1-3 years.
- Increased rate of spread (Surface fire)
- Resistance to control (Heavy dead and down)
- Frequent spotting, including long range (>0.25 miles)
- In areas of significant dead & dying trees, escape routes and safety zones may require modification (size and location) to account for increased fire behavior potential, as well as downfall potential
- Snags fall/break at differing ages based upon species, size class, and location. Look for shallow rooted species to start falling and all species breaking in 3-5 years.
- After 3 years the twigs/branches start contribute to ground fuels
- After 10 years boles start adding to ground fuel, but may take 20+ years to have the fuel continuity sufficient to carry fire through a stand.

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