

FIRE RECOVERY SAFETY TIPS

REMEMBER – use caution and good judgment. Hazards still exist.

There will be smoke visible in many locations as the fire continues to consume fuels, most of these smokes will be non-threatening. That being said, it is important to be vigilant and aware of what is going on in your surroundings. Particular things to be aware of are trees torching near fire lines or structures. These can put embers into unburned vegetation depending on wind direction and can cause spot fires which may compromise containment lines. In this event please alert your neighbors and/or the fire crews in the area before you leave the area. Contact the fire department or call 911 if you are unable to easily locate one of the fire resources.

Keep the area around your house clean and green. For tips on how to improve the future survivability of your home visit [Firewise.org](https://www.firewise.org)

HAZARDOUS TREES

After a fire passes through an area, most trees become weakened. These fire weakened trees are called snags. It is VERY important to stay away from blackened areas and burned trees as this area, and especially hazardous trees, are extremely dangerous to be around.

Take precautionary measures:

- Assume roots and the soils that support these snags have also been burned. This weakens the soils' ability to stabilize roots and hold trees upright. Without this support, it is much easier for trees to fall.
- Stay clear of burned areas. It is common for snags to fall without warning.
- Stay mindful of weather forecasts. If winds are present or forecasted to accompany storms, expect a high likelihood trees will begin to fall.

Due to these hazards, people returning to their properties should be extremely cautious when near burned areas and work to avoid them if at all possible.

RESIDUAL SMOKE IN FIRE INTERIOR

Smoke may be present on the interior of the fire for several days following containment. This occurs as a result of stumps, roots, and other surface materials being exposed to changing temperatures and wind conditions. Smoke volume from these materials may fluctuate depending on weather conditions. This should not pose a risk and smoke will continue to dissipate until materials are fully consumed or extinguished by fire crews or weather.

Smoke inversions in the night and morning hours can be irritating to individuals with breathing problems. It is recommended these individuals stay indoors during these times. Windows may be opened during the day and early evenings, but should be closed at night or when the inversion starts to settle smoke in the valley to avoid unnecessary smoke exposure.

Cooperating Agencies: Ravalli County Sheriff, Ravalli County Volunteer Fire Departments, Montana DNRC, Red Cross, Montana DOT, Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks and Northwestern Energy.