

### Check the weather

Planning a trip to Lüneburg Heath, the North Sea or the Harz Mountains? Timely information about the current weather and that of the past days at your destination can influence significantly your trip.



Hot spells increase the risk of forest fires as well as emergency situations such as sunstroke, heatstroke or simply dehydration when exercising in the sun.

Don't underestimate thunderstorms - do not go into forests, when there is an acute risk of thunderstorms.

If there is a storm or danger of a storm avoid the forest. Falling branches or falling trees can cause serious or even fatal injuries. Also, after a storm, forest paths may be closed for clearing.

Be careful also in winter time: snow loads on trees can cause branches to break and fall, injuring people.

# In an emergency, call the fire brigade and emergency services.



# 112

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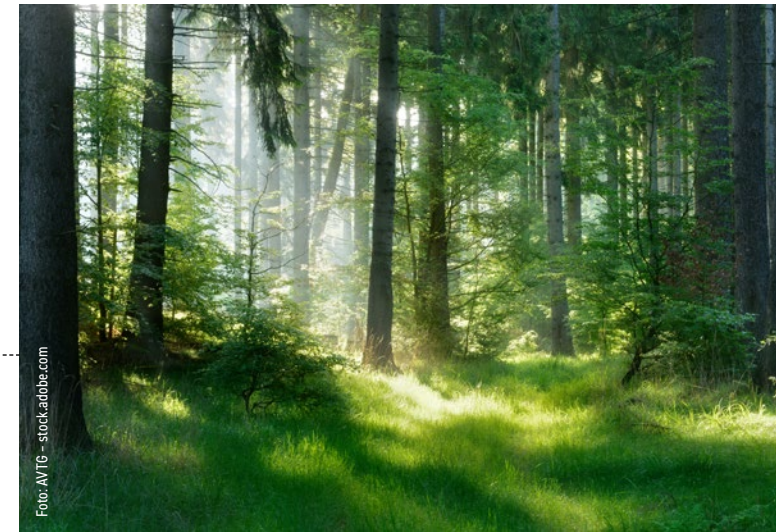
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## Forest fires and emergencies - preventing together





**Main causes of vegetation fires and accidents in nature are human carelessness, misbehaviour or even intention. Sometimes it is just ignorance.**

### How to avoid forest fires

The following is some information which, if followed and implemented by forest visitors, should reduce the number of forest fires.

These rules apply not only in midsummer, but all year round. Spring, or the generally wetter seasons such as autumn and winter, are not automatically times when there is no danger at the edge of the forest.

Going to the countryside means often taking a car. Once there, you need a spot to park the car.

Do not block escape routes on car parks, especially when there are paths leading into the forest. Do not park your car on dry grass, which can catch fire.

**No open fires in the forest!** This applies to barbecues, outdoor cooking equipment, camp fires and even cigarettes.

From 1 March to 31 October any kind of fire is forbidden in the forest!<sup>1</sup>

No fireworks in the forest. Not even on New Year's Eve. Fireworks cause a high level of stress for wild animals, simply due to the light effect and banging.



**No open fires!**

**No barbecues!**

**No smoking!**

**No fireworks in the forest, not even on New Year's Eve!**

### Avoid accidents in the forest

Sometimes the forest is more than just nature with deciduous and coniferous trees, you will find so-called lost places (abandoned or disused places such as old factories, hospitals or hotels). Those places are often fascinating and inviting, but they are also dangerous. At first glance, it is impossible to judge whether there is a risk of collapse or whether there is a risk of falling inside the building. A common accident risk for adventurous visitors.

Closed tunnels and mines are also a risk; they could collapse or you might get lost underground.

People often visit forests for a variety of reasons. Walkers to enjoy nature, horse riders, hikers or cyclists for sporting activities. Take care, when there are a lot of other people on forest paths - considerate behaviour helps to avoid accidents!

Sometimes a forest off the beaten track can be a real adventure playground. Dead wood and stones invite children and young people to climb, to build hiding places with branches. All this can lead to accidents, especially when children are on their own.

Rocky outcrops, precipices, sloping terrain in the forest are all risk factors: you might fall or slip. So never approach slopes.

Forest and hiking trails may be closed from time to time. There are various reasons for this: forestry work, tree felling, loose branches or fallen trees after a storm, a storm or maintenance work on the trail. Tracks or certain areas may also be closed due to hunting activities. These preventative closures avoid endangering people using the trail.



**Do not enter restricted areas!**

**Watch out for hazards!**

**Show consideration for others and animals!**

<sup>1</sup> Niedersächsisches Gesetz über den Wald und die Landschaftsordnung (NWaldLG)