

## Forest Fire Safety Precautions

The main cause of forest fires is careless, negligent behaviour in the forest. The Ministry for the Environment therefore requests that all persons underway in forests observe following safety precautions:

- **Smoking, igniting fires and open flames are forbidden in the forest. Fire places and open flames always require permission by the responsible forest authority.**  
For more information on using fire in the trekking camps, please refer to the Camp Rules.
- **Sunlight in combination with carelessly discarded glass bottles can have the effect of a burning lens.**
- **You should also always take care of where you park your car. The heat from the catalytic converter can ignite dry grass underneath the car and cause a forest fire.**

In accordance with Federal Forest Acts, visitors are obligated to help prevent forest fires and to obey instructions of the forestry office.

Persons discovering a fire are asked to report this by calling the **emergency number 112**. The Ministry explicitly points out that no unauthorized attempts should be made to extinguish the fire.

Unlike in other federal states the Rhineland Palatinate has relatively few forest fires. One of the reasons for this is the high proportion of deciduous trees and the general tree diversity. The soil structure in large parts of the Rhineland Palatinate is also better capable of absorbing moisture and sandy soils are rather rare.

Nevertheless, in order to prevent forest fires it is imperative that every forest visitor abide by the precautions listed above.

Current information concerning the momentary risk of forest fires can be found on the Internet at [www.dwd.de/waldbrand](http://www.dwd.de/waldbrand).