If You See or Smell Smoke, Don’t Panic

The fire may be too far from you and too far to reach. If you encounter a wildfire while you travel in the BWCAW follow these steps:

1. Watch the Weather

WIND: If heat and strong wind are occurring and the prevailing wind makes your way to the Fire sufferers, keep a safe route to follow wind direction change. Keep as much as possible, and watch for low-lying smoke. Make sure to use these routes if winds change wind direction or make a sudden change. Fire direction can be calculated using your weather forecast.

2. Make a New Plan

Look at alternate routes to follow in case your health permits it. Make sure to check your route for help if you have to change direction. Your route may be closed due to the use of heavy vehicles or by forest fires.

3. Find a Safe Place

If you feel threatened, find a place to stop. Keep your vehicle’s door closed and lock it. If you can’t find a place to stop, lock your doors to prevent your vehicle from being a target for vandals.

For information on Quetico Provincial Park in Canada

For additional information, contact:
Superior National Forest Supervisor’s Office
Superior National Forest
Duluth, Minnesota 55808
(218) 387-3030
(218) 365-3344

For questions about travel in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness please contact the Superior National Forest:
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Duluth, Minnesota 55808
(218) 387-3030
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Make sure to have your permit and ID with you at all times. Never leave the BWCAW without a permit. If you are caught without a permit, you will be charged a fine.

Prevent the need for a search and rescue operation that may impede the integrity of the wilderness area from the use of heavy vehicles and heavy equipment. Always carry and maintain necessary skills for primitive travel by foot, canoe, or other non-motor crafts.
**Wilderness Hazards**

Wilderness means different personal freedoms, but it also means taking responsibility for self-sufficiency and good judgment. You must always be prepared for emergency situations. Are you prepared for emergency situations? Are you aware that some risk is inherent in wilderness travel, but you can greatly increase your safety by taking certain precautions? Do you have the right equipment? If you hang food packs from a tree, you must hang them at least 8 feet from the ground and create a barrier of standing trees. It is strongly advisable to use a bear canister or grates at designated campsites or as specifically approved on your wilderness permit.

**Rapids**

Large sections of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness border Minnesota's Quetico Provincial Park and bordered on the west by Canada's Quetico Provincial Park. In the rare instance that a bear refuses to leave or becomes aggressive, use a stick, gravel, rocks, or a canister. The use of metal detectors is prohibited. 

**Dogs**

Dogs impact wildlife and barking intrudes on the experience of others. They must be under control at all times. Dispose of fecal matter on the ground away from water's edge and camp; stir the ashes until they are cold to the touch with a bare hand. 

**Firewood**

You must be near a water source or stream. Your License must be in your possession when you enter any watercraft in the BWCAW. Smaller groups increase your wilderness experience and decrease the impact. They must be under control at all times. Dispose of fecal matter on the ground away from water's edge and camp; stir the ashes until they are cold to the touch with a bare hand.

**Camping**

Camp sites in the BWCAW are designed to kill Giardia lambia, or by first boiling the water — bring enough to drink. Water should be treated by using a purifier with a filter specifically designed to kill Giardia lambia, a chemical treatment specifically designed to remove Giardia lambia. This brochure is an overview of the BWCAW. Smaller groups increase your wilderness experience and decrease the impact. If you hang food packs from a tree, you must hang them at least 8 feet from the ground and create a barrier of standing trees. It is strongly advisable to use a bear canister or grates at designated campsites or as specifically approved on your wilderness permit. 

**Camping and Boat Registrations**

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