

Wildland Fires

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What Is A Wildland Fire?

“Wildfire” is a term that describes unwanted, unplanned, damaging fire burning in forest, shrub or grass. It is one of the most powerful natural forces known to people.



How Fire Works

The Basic Elements of Fire:

Heat: Starts fire by removing moisture from nearby fuel.

Fuel: Is any material that can catch fire through heat, especially when it lacks moisture.

Air: Oxygen is needed to spread fires.

If any of these elements are missing, a fire cannot exist.



Types of Fire

Natural Fires: Help our ecosystem by replenishing habitats. Fire promotes plant and wildlife diversity by burning the dead materials to make room for new growth.



Prescribed Fires: Also called controlled burns, these are planned fires by experts. Sometimes when natural fires do not occur as often in certain areas there is a build up of dead fuels, and prescribed burns are crucial and good for the habitat. They also help with fire prevention.



What Causes Wildland Fires?

Wildland fires are a serious threat to lives and property in the U.S.

The combination of drought, warmer temperatures, high winds and an excess of dried vegetation in forests and grasslands have made **fire** seasons progressively worse over the past 50 years.

Causes include accumulation of:

- Leaves, branches, excessive plant overgrowth in forest and wildland areas
- Increasingly dry, hot weather
- Changing weather patterns across the U.S.
- Increased residential development in the wildland/urban interface

Other Causes of Fires:

Improper Campfire



Trash



Lightning Strikes



Hot and Dry Climates



Can you identify why?

Common ways **YOU** could unintentionally
start a wildfire:

- Unattended debris burning
- Equipment fires such as from lawnmowers, ATVs, power equipment
- Smoking
- Unattended campfires (photo below)
- Fireworks
- Carelessly discarding fireplace or BBQ ashes



What You Can Do?

While sometimes caused by natural occurrences such as lightning, nine out of ten wildfires are human-caused.

Remember to:

- Become educated on wildland fires
- Practice safety and being aware of your surroundings
- Know when and how to start a campfire and follow proper regulations
- Water down your campfires



What are some other ways to prevent wildland fires?

Glossary

Wildland Fires: A term that describes unwanted, unplanned, damaging fire burning in forest, shrub or grass and are one of the most powerful natural forces known to people.

Fire Triangle: If any of these elements are missing, a fire cannot exist.

Elements of a Fire Triangle:

- Heat
- Water
- Fuel

Types of Fires:

- Natural
- Prescribed

Works Referenced

Pg. 1 Cover Photo:

"High Park Fire." *Wikipedia*. Wikimedia Foundation, n.d. Web. 01 May 2015. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/High_Park_fire>.

Pg. 3 What is a Wildland Fire?

"Smokey Bear - The Science of Wildfires: What is a Wildfire?" *Smokey Bear*. N.p., n.d. Web. 01 May 2015. <<http://www.smokeybear.com/wildfire-science.asp>>.

Pg. 4 Fire Triangle:

Gosnell, Ron. "Allenspark CWPP: Wildland Fire Basics." *Allenspark CWPP: Wildland Fire Basics*. N.p., n.d. Web. 01 May 2015. <<http://cwpp.allenspark.info/basics.html>>.

Pg. 5& 6 Types of Fires/Photo:

Photo by Jennifer Golden (with the drip torches)

"Smokey Bear - The Science of Wildfires." *Smokey Bear*. N.p., n.d. Web. 03 Apr. 2015. <<http://www.smokeybear.com/wildfire-science.asp>>.

"Colorado Wildfires 2013 Maps, Updates: Black Forest Fire Sparks Wider Evacuations, 2 Deaths - Latest Info (VIDEO, PHOTOS)." *Christian Post*. N.p., n.d. Web. 01 May 2015. <<http://www.christianpost.com/news/colorado-wildfires-2013-maps-updates-black-forest-fire-sparks-wider-evacuations-2-deaths-latest-info-video-photos-98030/>>.

Pg. 7-9 Causes of Wildland Fires/Photo:

Photo by Jennifer Golden (with campfire)

"Smokey Bear - The Science of Wildfires." *Smokey Bear*. N.p., n.d. Web. 03 Apr. 2015. <<http://www.smokeybear.com/wildfire->

science.asp>.

Pg. 10 What You Can Do:

Incident Response Pocket Guide. Boise, ID: National Interagency Fire Center, 2014. Web.

<http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/pubs/pms461/pms461.pdf>

"Wildland Fires." *Wildland Fires*. N.p., n.d. Web. 03 Apr. 2015. <<http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/for-consumers/outdoors/wildland-fires>>.

Common Core State Standards

RI.5.1 #1. Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

RI.5.5 #5. Compare and contrast the overall structure (e.g., chronology, comparison, cause/effect, problem/solution) of events, ideas, concepts, or information in two or more texts.

RI.5.8. #8. Explain how an author uses reasons and evidence to support particular points in a text, identifying which reasons and evidence that supports which points.

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