












Wildfires

Each year, tens of thousands of wildfires occur that destroy millions of acres of land and claim the lives of civilians and the wildland firefighters who bravely defend them. Wildfires aren't always the result of natural causes. In fact, most wildfires that occur each year are the result of human activity. Below, we will address some of the main causes of wildfires.







Human Causes of Wildfires¹

-  **Burning Debris**
-  **Irresponsible Campfires**
 -  The campfire is left unattended
 -  The campfire grows out of control
 -  The campfire isn't fully out
-  **Unextinguished Cigarettes**
-  **Vehicle Crashes and Malfunctions**
-  **Arson**
-  **Shards**










Natural Causes of Wildfires²

-  **Lightning**
-  **Spontaneous combustion of dry vegetation**
-  **Volcanic activities**



Effects of Wildfires

-  **Health issues like³**
 - a. Wildfires can contaminate drinking-water systems in ways that pose both acute and chronic health risks to the people who depend on those systems.
 - b. Wildfires have many acute and chronic effects on human health. They can cause respiratory (asthma) and cardio vascular symptoms, burns, trauma, mental health effects, reproductive and immunological disorders, and a wide array of outcomes associated with social and financial disruption.
-  **Loss of Ecosystems and Biodiversity**
-  **Forest Degradation**
-  **Air Pollution**
-  **Soil Degradation**
-  **Economic Losses**
-  **Destruction of Watersheds**

How to prevent forest fires?

- Educate people and create awareness about forest fires.
- Fire detection system and watchtowers and network for communication
- Patrolling by the forest department
- Strict approvals and warnings for those using the forest for adventurous activities

Sources

- ¹ The Most Common Causes of Wildfires (supplycache.com)
- ² What Are The Common Causes Of Forest Fires? (beyondcarlton.org)
- ³ 4 Effects of Wildfires on Human Health | Implications of the California Wildfires for Health, Communities, and Preparedness: Proceedings of a Workshop | The National Academies Press, Various Causes and Effects of Wildfires | Earth Eclipse
- ⁴ What Are The Common Causes Of Forest Fires? (beyondcarlton.org)