

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



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 cardiovascular 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 adventure 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)