

Wildfire

Q & A's

Test your wildfire knowledge

Q Is it true that peak fire season in Wisconsin is during the hot summer months?



Fire burns quickly through dry vegetation which is abundant in the spring.



A Wisconsin's wildfire weather is most severe during spring, after the last snowmelt and before the vegetation "greens up." The combination of warm weather, strong winds, low humidity, and large amounts of dead and dry vegetation creates prime conditions for wildfires. The chance for wildfire increases again during late summer and fall when the vegetation begins to dry out. Extra caution is needed these times of the year. People are urged to put off the burning of leaves and brush until the ground is snow-covered. Better yet, compost the material instead!

Q What is a wildfire "fuel?"



Firewood stacks should be kept at least 30 feet away from buildings.



A There are many types of fuels that can be consumed by wildfire. Fire moves quickly through light fuels like grass, fallen pine needles and leaves, and garden mulch. Fire lingers and burns more intensely in heavier fuels like wood decks and fences, firewood stacks, and lawn furniture. Very heavy fuels like trees and buildings can burn for long periods of time and spread fire by producing radiant heat and flying embers. Breaking up the continuity of fuels around a home can make it less likely to catch fire.

Q The fire department will be able to save my home from a wildfire, right?



Could this fire truck make it down your driveway?



Q Are most wildfires started by lightning?



Each year hundreds of wildfires are caused by debris burning.



A No, humans are the number one source of wildfires in Wisconsin. About a third of the fires occur because of debris burning, which includes things like burning brush and leaf piles and burn barrels. Equipment-related fires (e.g. hot exhaust systems or sparks from vehicles or tools) are the second most common source. Power lines, improper disposal of ash, arson, railroads, campfires, fireworks, and smoking are also contributors.

Q What can I do to prepare my property for wildfire?



A Firewise home has lean, clean, and green landscaping.



A Homes can survive a wildfire often with the simplest measures taken by the homeowner. Doing even one thing, like removing leaves and pine needles from rain gutters or raking the dry leaves away from your home's siding and from underneath decks, can increase the survivability of your home. For more information about preparing your home for wildfire, go to:

dnr.wi.gov and search for 'Firewise.'

A It depends. When a major wildfire is burning or when several smaller fires are occurring at the same time, it is unlikely there will be enough firefighting resources available to defend every home. In these instances, firefighters will likely select homes they can safely and effectively protect. Could a fire truck maneuver through your neighborhood? How about down your driveway? If a firefighter were able to get the truck to your home, could they turn around when it was time to leave? Remember - a firefighter cannot help save your home if they cannot get to it.

Even with adequate resources, some wildfires may be so intense that there is little firefighters can do to prevent a house from burning. But homeowners can help protect their homes by applying Firewise principles before the wildfire occurs. Consequently, the most important person in protecting a house from wildfire is not a firefighter, but the property owner.



Smokey's friends **never** play with fireworks. Remember, only **you** can prevent wildfires!



WILDFIRE WORD FIND

Help Smokey circle the words to prevent a wildfire. Some are spelled forwards or backwards, and even vertical, horizontal or diagonal.

J K L N O I U Y F B F I R E W O R K S D G Y H J
 D I B L P M A N I M A L S G T S X V N L I M Y N
 O R U C S S P A R K S J M R E C A L P E R I F K
 O U C T F H L K E O G F R W Q A F L A M E S G F
 W E K C F O B Y F U C I M N H Y T R F V P D S H
 J I E O P M H N I B G K T R E T A W S A R Z X R
 M A T C H E S K G L O I E H T P L K R M E N H E
 G T F C D E R F H O S E U T O H J K L I V H N G
 G E R D C H U N T N F I R E S P L M J U E B G N
 V F K C D E S W E Z W S L G Y E U Y I M N K L A
 K M H A G V C F R D T G B E R J I E H P T M J R
 F I R E R I N G H N J U K S A N H K F E I S A T
 S R E H S I U G N I T X E P M V N O G V O D C S
 T Y U I B U R N I N G F V B N M E M C F N G T E
 N E I G H B O R H O O D A Q Z A Q S M O K E Y R
 T P L S R E T T U G Y V F T R C D E X S W B H O
 N J I K O L S H O V E L G V B G F H J U J K M F

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|--------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| Fire | Burning | Flames | Firefighter |
| Matches | Smoke | Forest | Ranger |
| Fireworks | Rockets | Sparklers | Prevention |
| Wood | Fire Ring | Sparks | Water |
| Leaves | Gutters | Rake | Hose |
| Animals | Smokey | Shovel | Bucket |
| Neighborhood | Home | Fireplace | Extinguisher |

Color Smokey's World



Get Your Smokey On!



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