

Aim

To understand that there are several agencies with responsibility for controlling wildfires before and after they occur.

Description

In fire-prone ecosystems, wildfires are a constant concern. Some agencies work hard to prevent wildfires from occurring, others are involved once wildfires occur.

Linked units

- Unit 1: Understanding your environment and climate change
- Unit 2: History of wildfires
- Unit 4: Fire ecology 2 – Understanding how wildfires happen
- Unit 5: Preparedness - how we can be better prepared to prevent wildfires at home or in the community
- Unit 5: Preparedness – how we can manage our landscape better to reduce the severity and impact of wildfires

Type of results

- Questionnaires / surveys
- Video footage
- Posters / Infographic
- Presentations
- Classroom discussion

Material you may need

- Computer with internet and/or access to a library or video library
- Projector

Scope of impact

- Household
- Classroom
- Community

Professions related to the topic

- Risk Manager
- Environmental scientist
- Firefighter
- Landscape architect
- Forest manager
- Local authority Planner

Activity: Understand the various agencies and stakeholders that have a role in controlling a wildfire.

Research large wildfires in your region and review all the agencies that play a part in controlling wildfires.

Before wildfires occur, what agencies have a role to play in preventing them from occurring?

Visit your planning department in the local authority or local fire station or forest manager and ask them who takes responsibility for preventing wildfires before they occur. Are there risk management plans available for forests and landscapes? What techniques or campaigns are used to prevent wildfires?

When wildfires do occur, who has a role to play in controlling them? What incident management system is put in place to deal with them? Who takes the lead? What agencies are involved? What resources are used to try to control wildfires?

Tasks

1. In small groups in the classroom, assign students to research wildfire video footage online. (group)
2. Prepare a questionnaire in advance of your visit to the local planning department, fire station or forestry manager. (group)
3. Share the results of your research with the classroom. Who has responsibility for controlling wildfires before they occur? Is this a shared responsibility, between citizens and government agencies? Who has responsibility once they occur? (group)
4. The results of the research can be presented in many ways. Prepare a short video, prepare a poster or an infographic, presenting slides or a presentation (group)
5. Share and discuss your research results with the rest of the students. Are you more aware of the agencies involved? Share this awareness with your family, friends, and community members! (group)