

Disney
PLANES
FIRE & RESCUE

TRUE/FALSE QUIZ

How much do you know about the ecology of wildlands?
Take this True/False quiz to find out!



- _____ 1. Heat, oxygen and fire make up the fire triangle, a term that explains the elements of fire.
- _____ 2. Fire is a natural part of most forest ecosystems.
- _____ 3. Prescribed fire, or the setting and controlling of fire in wildland areas by firefighters, is some thing that is done only to practice firefighting skills.
- _____ 4. A high danger of wildfire exists when the weather is hot, dry, or windy, or when thunderstorms occur.
- _____ 5. An average of 1,000 wildfires occurs each year in the U.S.
- _____ 6. Firefighters can only put out wildfires with water.
- _____ 7. Fire is harmful to every kind of tree and vegetation found in the forest.
- _____ 8. From 2001 to 2006, 9 out of 10 wildfires were started by people.
- _____ 9. Forests experience good fires and bad fires.
- _____ 10. Currently, the number of wildfires has decreased in the U.S.

1. **False.** Heat, oxygen and fuel are the components of the fire triangle. The interaction of the three is responsible for the creation and maintenance of fire. When managing a wildfire, firefighters work to curb one or more of these three elements. For example, they might contain the fire so that its fuel will become exhausted, use water to reduce the heat of the fire, or use dirt to smother the fire by reducing its oxygen supply.

2. **True.** Fire occurs naturally in our nation's forests in 25-200-year cycles. Some areas burn even more often—some annually. Without fire or other disturbances, forest vegetation goes through successional changes. Light-loving plants are replaced by shade-loving plants. This is a normal process. Prescribed fires are used to reduce fuels and to bring the forest into a condition where light-loving plants are in the majority.

3. **False.** Prescribed fire is used by wildland fire managers to keep forests healthy. It is a controlled system of setting and managing a fire in a safe way to keep forests clear of dense vegetation that provides excessive fuel for wildfires. It also aids in the new growth of native vegetation and maintains the many plant and animal species whose habitats depend on periodic fire. Prescribed fire is one of the most effective means of preventing unwanted wildfires.

4. **True.** Hot, dry, and windy conditions cause a wildfire to spread quickly. In addition, lightning strikes from thunderstorms often ignite wildfires.

5. **False.** Since 1991, there have been up to an average of 75,000 wildfires a year.

6. **False.** Firefighters do use water to control wildfires, but they also remove the fire's fuel by removing trees and plants or using bulldozers to create a fire line.

7. **False.** Nearly every ecosystem in the country has some kind of plant that is dependent on periodic fire for its survival.

8. **True.** Both directly and indirectly, people are the major cause of wildfires. Carelessly discarded cigarettes and other smoking products, sparks from cars, trains, and power equipment, power lines that spark, campfires left unattended, and arson are all examples of human involvement in wildfires.

9. **True.** Good fires are prescribed fires (see #3). Most unwanted and unplanned fire burning in forest, shrub, or grass, is a bad fire. Because a wildfire's behavior is erratic, wildfires can destroy lives, property, and wild areas (our forests, grasslands, etc.).

10. **False.** Since 2006, wildfires have been increasing due to droughts and extremely high temperatures; more people living in forested areas; and lots of vegetation that burns.