

Wildland Fires Answer Sheet

LEVEL 1

Answers to Wildland Fire Hazard Hunt

Hazards include leaves and trash in the gutters; overgrown bushes; trees over the house; a woodpile next to the house; the wooden deck with weeds under it; an unattended lawn mower and gas can in the weeds; the gas stove on the deck with overhanging trees; tall brush and piles of twigs and branches (slash) in the backyard; and wood shingles and siding on the home.

Answers to Fire Safety in the Woods

Illustration 1: Unsafe

Carelessness with matches causes many wildland fires. The lighted match will easily catch the dry leaves on fire. Since there is no water or sand present in the picture, and the adult is not watching where he throws the match, chances are good that the fire will be out of control quickly. The adult could have been very sure that the match was out by dropping it into water or a fire-proof bucket. Lighted matches must never be discarded outside because grass and forest fuels are fire hazards. Another hazard in the picture is the oil lantern that is too close to the tree branches above it.

Illustration 2: Safe

This picture shows a small, controlled campfire in a well-maintained pit. Rocks surround the fire pit, and there is a broad, cleared area around the campfire circle. Extra firewood is stacked well away from the fire, and a bucket of water stands near the fire in case the fire threatens to get out of control.

Illustration 3: Safe

Battery-operated lanterns, instead of oil lanterns, provide plenty of light for the family members as they sing and talk in their campfire circle. There are several thermoses beside family members so that they can have something warm to drink without building a fire. The family is obeying the "No Fires" sign. They do have a gas camp stove, and in many camping areas these are allowed. However, if conditions are very dry, even gas stoves may be prohibited.

Illustration 4: Unsafe

Although the campers have built the fire within a safe fire pit, the windy weather conditions and too much fuel in the fire have made this campfire unsafe. The people are standing too close to a fire that is almost out of control. Also, extra fuel is too close to the fire and there is no bucket of water. You must always consider the weather conditions when starting a fire. Keep fires small to help keep them under control. And, since weather, especially winds, may change, be ready to put a fire out with water you keep nearby.

Answers to Where is Whiskers?

Lead a discussion of the story:

- What did you learn about evacuation?

Evacuation means leaving your home in an emergency. You can find out about an evacuation by listening for an announcement on a local radio or television station, or if police, firefighters or other public officials notify you. Sometimes there is no time for an evacuation order to be issued. People must be aware of what is going on around them and must take personal responsibility for evacuating if they conclude that they are in danger. The American Red Cross often sets up shelters for people who must evacuate their homes.

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- Did the child behave well during the evacuation?

In the beginning, the child was ready with his backpack prepared. The child quickly did the job of gathering the family pets to put in the car, but when the cat could not be found, he started to cry. However, he did not refuse to leave and got into the car when his parents were ready to go.

- Who in the community helped during the emergency?

News people on the radio and television, police, Dad, Mom, child, firefighters, American Red Cross workers and people from the animal shelter.

- How did the child in the story feel? How did his feelings change?

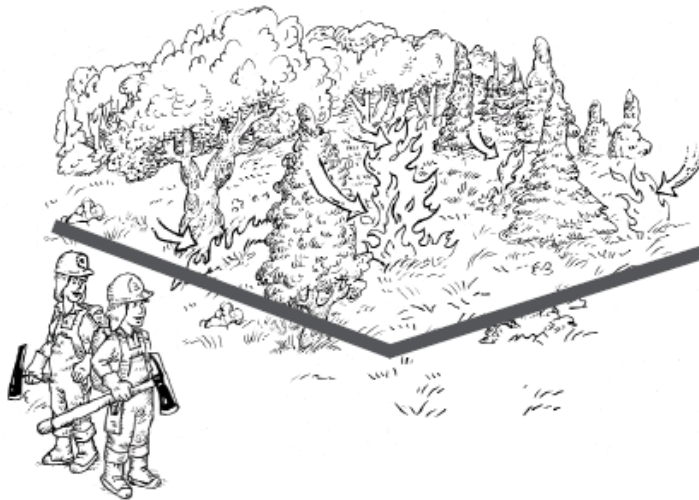
The child felt very proud at first because the family was prepared and everyone had a job to do. Then, he was very sad when Whiskers was nowhere to be found. The child was very excited when Whiskers was at the animal shelter and very happy when all the family pets were together again.

Answers to *Tracking the Weather*

A season of drought, or long time with low precipitation, dries out fuels and evaporates water supplies, especially in the summer and early fall. Dry thunderstorms are thunderstorms with a high altitude base where thunder and lightning are present, but little to no rain reaches the ground.

The lightning from these storms often starts wildland fires. High winds can push fire to new fuel sources and may cause fire to jump a road or stream. Santa Ana winds are often hot and very dry, adding heat to the wildland fire triangle. Hot temperatures add heat to wildland fires and help dry out fuels.

Answers to *Drawing the Line Against Wildland Fires*



Answers to *Line of Succession*

1. Grasses and non-woody plants
2. Grasses, shrubs and a few tree saplings
3. Ground growth and young trees
4. Mature trees

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LEVEL 2

Answers to *Contain the Fire*

- The flames of the lanterns could ignite the wood table, the nearby canvas tents or the overhanging tree branches.
- The campfires could ignite the wood table, the can of fuel, the grass or the overhanging tree branches.
- The barbecue grills could ignite the grass, the tree branches or the canvas tents.
- Fireworks are extremely dangerous and could injure people or easily ignite any of the nearby flammable/combustible materials.

Answers to *Who Is Protected?*

Home 1: **High** (vegetation type 2, wood roof, wood siding, slope of 10°)

Home 2: **Low** (vegetation type 1, metal roof, slope of 0°)

Home 3: **Medium** (vegetation type 2, tile roof, slope of 20°)

Home 4: **Extreme** (vegetation type 4, composition roof, wood siding, slope of 30°)

Answers to *“You’ll Never Guess What Happened!”*

Bina and her family did—

- Disconnect the automatic garage door opener.
- Wear the correct clothing.
- Take a first aid kit.
- Follow the instructions of the local officials.

Bina’s family did not—

- Monitor the radio for reports and evacuation information while the fire was near their home and go outside from time to time to evaluate personally the fast changing situation. (The fire may be moving too fast for officials to issue evacuation notifications.)
- Load into the van the pet carrier, family financial records, computer hard drive, photographs and irreplaceable objects along with suitcases packed with clothing for a few days away from home.
- Take care of moving the inoperable car and parking the van correctly for a quick getaway.
- Prepare a family disaster supplies kit well in advance of the fire.
- Set up a plan of action to care for the cat well in advance of the fire.
- Let someone know where they would be staying during the evacuation.
- Call a relative or friend to see if they could stay with them if they had to evacuate.
- Lock the home.

LEVEL 3

Answers to *Adaptations to Wildland Fire*

1. Invaders
2. Evaders
3. Avoiders
4. Resisters
5. Endurers

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Sample Answers to *Fire-safe Materials*

Structural component	Material	Fire Resistance	Cost	Notes
Roofs	Metal, tile or fiberglass	High	High	Heavy, but long lasting
	Asphalt shingles with tarpaper	Moderate	Moderate	
	Wood or cedar shakes	Low	Moderate	Look nice but can dry out in direct sun
Gutters	Metal	High	Moderate	
	Wood	Moderate	Moderate	
	Plastic	Low	Low	
Outside walls	Stone, brick or metal	High	High	
	Wood	Moderate	Moderate	Can be treated with fire retardant chemicals
	Vinyl	Low	Low	Can be treated with fire retardant chemicals
Land-scaping materials	Gravel, pavement, stone	High	Moderate	
	Green grass, shrubs, flowers	Moderate	Moderate	High maintenance
	Wood chips	Low	Low	