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Rube Goldberg Forest Fires

Forests are important. Trees make a big impact on our lives. In fact, most items in your house including toothpaste and even toys are partially made of wood. Every year, avoidable fires devastate forests in the West. The smoke we smell during the summer is from forest fires in Idaho and also from trade winds that carry asthma causing fumes from Oregon, Washington, and even California. Too many forest fires are caused by one person. Yes, one dummy that is in the forest playing with fireworks, not safely extinguishing a campfire, an electrical spark from a vehicle, arson, or smoking in dry brush. It all happens like a giant Rube Goldberg machine but instead of doing a helpful simple task or providing pleasure, bad news happens. Animals lose their habitat. Future forest products are destroyed. Hazardous air sickens people and contributes to global warming. Lives are even lost.

We can avoid devastating our forests by being careful with fire. Everywhere and every time. Forest fires are also caused by lightning. That's just life. It's what happens in nature. However, the scope of devastation is still preventable. Through forest management and maintenance, we can keep forest fires from getting out of control. By clearing dead trees and flammable brush, community planning, creating fire lines like defensible spaces between forests and homes, planting more trees than we cut down, and educating children and grown-ups to be stewards of the woodlands, there will be less destruction. We can prevent forest fires.

Cited Works

<https://idahoforests.org/content-item/stuff-we-get-from-trees-2/>

Sawe, Benjamin Elisha. "What Causes Forest Fires." *Environment*, 19 May, 2017.

<https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/what-causes-forest-fires.>