



## Forest Fires

Do you know how it feels to be trapped in a forest fire? How the smoke burns your lungs, forcing you not to breathe as the sky is engulfed in flames? The trees are ablaze, and it seems the world is on fire. Yet... it still happens—over and over again. Sometimes we can't stop forest fires, but a lot of times, we cause them. How do we fix this?

Forest fires can occur naturally. They can happen because of a drought leaving trees to heat up in the hot sun, or the tree in perspective being struck by lightning. However, the *College of Natural Resources News* states, "Human carelessness is the biggest factor contributing to wildfires." This tells us that we need to be more careful and considerate. Practically 85% of wildfires in the U.S. are the result of carelessly disposed cigarettes, unattended campfires, and just plain attempts of arson!

We can fix this problem, though. [Forest Fire Prevention Tips \(ct.gov\)](#) gives many tips on how to prohibit forest fires. While you might be thinking about how

some controlled fires can actually be good for the environment—which is true—it also is still dangerous and unpredictable. We can try our best to stop forest fires altogether if we work together.



It's also worth noting the importance of these trees to our planet.

They're used as homes for birds, squirrels, koalas, sloths, pandas, and so many more! About 70% of *all* the world's animals depend on trees to survive! This means that when they burn down, so do the animals who lived there. We also depend on trees to survive—they give us oxygen and materials for tools and shelter!

So, as you can see, in the future, Idaho forests—and others—should be managed with care. You can donate to tree protection programs to help. Make sure that you're always being thoughtful when it comes to the protection of yourself and others. Help animals keep their homes, don't leave campfires unattended, and be proud you did the right thing in the end. Thank you :)

