

DEFEND WHAT MATTERS



Our Homes



Our Communities



Our Forests

A century of fire suppression led to today's overly dense forests.



Unnaturally dense forests are prone to uncharacteristically severe wildfires.



Low-severity surface fires play a natural role in our forests—they reduce the risk of severe fires and improve ecosystem health.

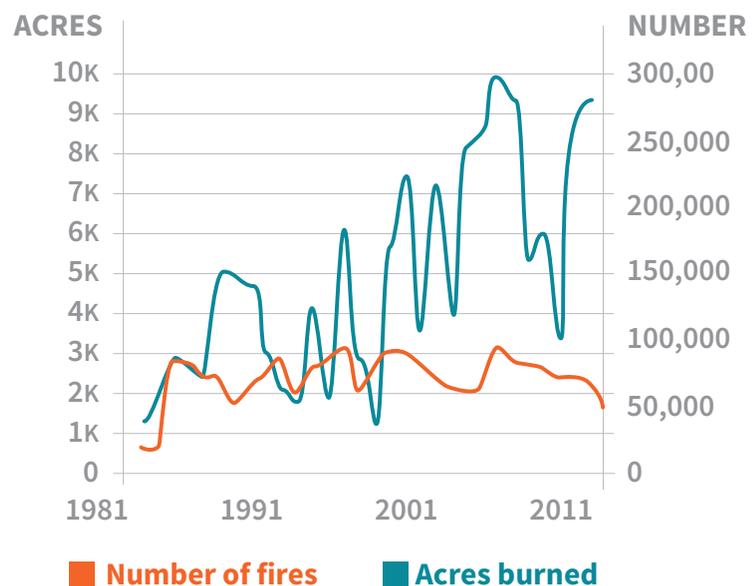
LIVING WITH WILDFIRE

- Recent trends show fires have become larger and more destructive.
- With a drier and hotter climate, fire and smoke will likely increase.
- Land managers and policy makers are working to increase the pace and scale of thinning trees and prescribed fires.
- Thinning small trees and applying prescribed fires across the landscape reduces the risk of damaging wildfires.

From 1982 to 2013 the number of individual fires decreased while the total acres burned increased.

NWCG Smoke Management Guide for Prescribed Fire, Feb. 2018

Number of Wildfires ↓ Number of Acres Burned ↑



Prescribed fire preserves what we value

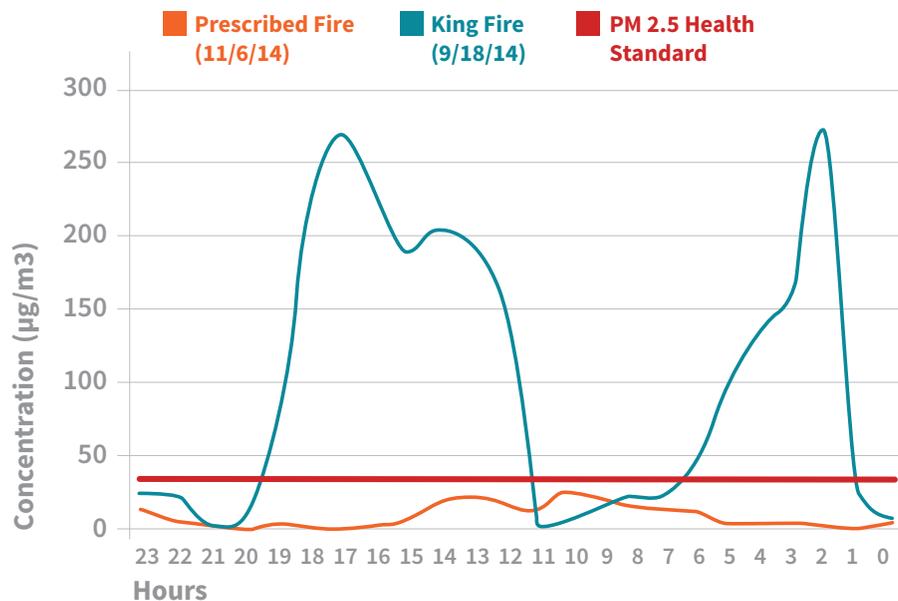
Our forests are what make northern Arizona special

Managing our forests helps maintain:

- Communities
- Neighborhoods
- Property
- Infrastructure
- Watersheds and water supply
- Recreation and scenic views
- A sense of place and belonging

A little smoke now prevents a lot of smoke later

Single Day Comparison of Prescribed Fire and Wildfire



Daily fine particulate concentrations in Washoe County, Nevada of a prescribed fire as compared to a significant wildfire in California.

NWCG Smoke Management Guide for Prescribed Fire, Feb. 2018

In a *Science Update** article, “Smoke in a New Era of Fire,” Paul Hessburg, a research landscape ecologist with the USFS Pacific Northwest Research Station stated

“Wildfire is the single most essential process for maintaining western forest and rangeland health.”

*USFS, Issue #24, Fall 2017

In the same article it was reported that

“Escaped burns receive a lot of media attention, but in reality, more than 99 percent of prescribed fires stay within their planned perimeters.”

Smoke emissions from uncharacteristically severe wildfires are MUCH GREATER than smoke emissions from prescribed fires.

SEVERE WILDFIRES

Uncharacteristically severe wildfire is destructive. Scarred landscapes may never fully recover.

- > Are unplanned, often destructive, and usually happen in the summer
- > Destroy trees and vegetation leaving the landscape barren
- > Damage soil, which then cannot absorb water
- > Cause flooding, landslides and damaged watersheds
- > Cause loss of water quality and water supply
- > Decrease plant and animal diversity, increase invasive plant abundance and destroy animal habitat
(Giant forest fires exterminate spotted owls, long-term study finds.)
University of Wisconsin-Madison, Aug. 2016
- > Have significant economic impacts, including decline in tourism
- > Cause loss of views, recreation and trails
- > Cause loss of infrastructure, homes, businesses and life
- > Smoke events are more intense and can last longer than prescribed fire



PRESCRIBED FIRES

Prescribed fire provides ecological benefits, healthy forests, safer communities.

- > Are planned, managed and usually happen in the spring/fall
- > Clear the forest floor of flammable debris
- > Play a natural role by recycling nutrients into the soil
- > Reduce the risk of post-fire flooding, landslides and damaged watersheds
- > Support clean water and preserve water supply
- > Increase diversity and vigor of native plants and animal habitat
- > Support tourism and boost the economy
- > Preserve views, recreation opportunities and trails
- > Preserve infrastructure, homes, businesses and life
- > Smoke events are less intense and are usually shorter than severe wildfires

Prescribed fire reduces the risk of severe wildfires, which can destroy ecosystems. Forests may not recover after the fire due to climate factors like prolonged drought and hotter temperatures.



WILDFIRE SMOKE AND YOUR HEALTH

What should you do?

- Pay attention to local air quality reports
- Stay alert to news coverage or health warnings
- Use visibility guides
- Limit outdoor activities

Who's the most at risk?

Take precautions at appropriate Air Quality Index (AQI) levels if you are in a sensitive group:

- Infants and children
- Pregnant or nursing mothers
- Older adults (65+) and those with pre-existing conditions
- Smokers

Strategies to reduce smoke exposure



- Stay indoors and close doors and windows
- Reduce indoor air pollution (ex. candles)
- Avoid vacuuming
- Close windows in a vehicle, set air conditioning to recirculate
- Drink plenty of water
- Run air conditioner, close fresh-air intake and keep the filter clean. Use filter with HEPA or MERV 13+ rating
- Use an N95 or N100 face mask - can be found at a pharmacy or hardware store
- Consider leaving the area
- Call your healthcare provider if symptoms worsen

IS IT SMOKY OUTSIDE? PROTECT YOUR HEALTH

Use the **5-3-1** visibility method <https://nmtracking.org/fire>

During fires if you can see about:

And you are an adult, a teenager, or an older child:

And you are age 65 and over, pregnant, a young child **OR** you have asthma, respiratory illness, lung or heart disease:

5 MILES	Check visibility often	Minimize outdoor activities
3 MILES	Minimize outdoor activities	Stay inside
1 MILES	Stay inside	Stay inside

If you feel like you are having health effects from smoke exposure, take extra care to stay inside or get to an area with better air quality. You should also see your doctor or other health professional as needed.

New Mexico Environmental Public Health Tracking program.

PRESCRIBED FIRE

The planned application of fire under the right circumstances.



PLACE

RIGHT

Landscape
Vegetation
Breaks in fuels



TIME

RIGHT

Time of year
Weather
Time of day



PEOPLE

RIGHT

Training
Supervision
Resources

By managing prescribed fire in controlled situations, the impact of smoke on public health can be greatly reduced, especially when compared to smoke from severe wildfire.



Sometimes fires ignited by lightning are allowed to burn under the right conditions. Generally, these fires reduce the risk of severe wildfires and promote ecological health.

RESOURCES

Check wildfire incidents inciweb.nwcg.gov

Shows current wildfire locations on a map

azdeq.gov/SmokeManagement

Lists active prescribed burns and describes how smoke is managed

www.azfireinfo.az.gov

AZ Interagency Wildfire Prevention and Information

smoke.azdeq.gov

AZ Dept. of Environmental Quality prescribed fire approved burns

Check air quality

airnow.gov

Provides Air Quality Index (AQI) - tells you how clean or polluted the air is

enviroflash.info

Receive air quality notifications by e-mail or text

Health risks/improving your health/wildfire smoke events

www3.epa.gov/airnow/wildfire_may2016.pdf

Wildfire smoke - guide for public health officials

www.arb.ca.gov/research/indoor/acdsumm.pdf

Air cleaning devices for the home

<https://bit.ly/2a50ehi>

Choose the correct mask to protect your lungs

Emergency Notification

coconino.az.gov/ready

Sign up for Coconino County emergency notifications (if you live outside of Coconino County, check your County's website for information)

For a complete list of resources, see: gffp.org/smoke



**FIRE ADAPTED
COMMUNITIES**
LEARNING NETWORK