



National Fire Season Themes for 2011

1. **Safety of the public and firefighters is the top consideration in fire and aviation management.**
 - Public and firefighter safety is our highest priority.
 - Firefighters always make safety their top concern.
 - No structure, or natural or cultural resource, is worth taking an unneeded risk.
 - Structures can be rebuilt and natural resources generally come back in time. A life cannot be replaced.

2. **Fires are managed in different ways.**
 - More than one strategy can be used during a wildfire. The strategies may range from quickly putting out the wildfire to monitoring a wildfire benefiting the land.
 - When a wildfire threatens people, homes, or important natural or cultural resources, it will be put out as quickly and efficiently as possible, without compromising safety.
 - Ecosystems in the United States evolved with wildfire. Wildfire is essential to most ecosystems' health and resilience.

3. **Firefighters count on you to do your part.**
 - Thousands of communities are located in fire-prone areas. Residents must take action to adapt their communities to fire. These actions will protect their homes and improve the safety of the public and firefighters.
 - Wildland firefighters are not responsible for clearing brush, trees and other flammable material away from your house. That's the responsibility of property owners.

4. **Fire seasons are expected to become longer and more difficult.**
 - The last three fire seasons have been lighter than usual, but firefighters know that the trend will change. Wildfires occur throughout the year in various parts of the country.
 - Climate change is a factor in the changing fire season. Although the United States had a generally cool year in 2010, other parts of the world experienced record temperatures and dryness. Other factors leading to more difficult seasons include an overabundance of flammable plants and trees and construction in fire-prone areas.

5. **Teamwork is essential in wildland fire.**
 - Wildland fire knows no boundaries. Local, state, tribal and federal firefighters all work together to manage wildfires.
 - Pooling our strengths and resources helps us to be more effective and keeps our costs down.