



National Fire Season Themes for 2012

1. **Keeping the public and firefighters safe is always our first concern.**
 - Our commitment to safety is reflected in every fire management activity.
 - No structure, or natural or cultural resource, is worth the loss of human life.

2. **Fire is an essential ecological process and a natural change agent.**
 - Many landscapes are out of ecological balance. Fire is one way of helping to restore that balance and help landscapes to become more resilient to threats.
 - Our focus is on minimizing damage and maximizing the benefits of wildland fire.

3. **Teamwork and cooperation are essential in managing fire.**
 - Wildfires know no boundaries. The response to wildfire will be coordinated among all affected agencies and landowners.
 - Pooling our resources helps keep costs down and effectiveness up.

4. **Fires are managed in different ways. The same fire may have several objectives, which can change as the fire spreads.**
 - Our response to wildfire is based on its potential ecological, social and legal consequences.
 - Fires that threaten life, property and important natural and cultural resources will be put out as safely and quickly as possible.

5. **Fire seasons are influenced by several factors including weather, the amount and condition of fuels and sources of ignition.**
 - This year's fire season is especially challenging to forecast. Conditions have not been typical. We expect above-average activity in some areas, but it's too early to determine exactly where.

6. **Firefighters count on the public to help reduce risk.**
 - When residents of a fire-prone community clear brush, trees and other flammable materials away from their home, it helps keep residents and firefighters safe. A community that has adapted to fire is a better-protected community.
 - Firefighters appreciate the help given to them by people who are willing to do their part to reduce risk prior to a fire incident.