

# Five National Fire Themes for the 2010 Season

## 1. Safety always comes first in fire management.

- No structure, or natural or cultural resource, is worth a human life.
- When firefighters plan a tactic, the first question is always, “Can we do this safely?” If the answer is “no,” they will take another direction.

## 2. Fire management decisions are based on many factors.

- Not all fires are managed the same way.
- Responding to a fire may include using multiple strategies. The response could range from monitoring a fire that is beneficial to the landscape to aggressively putting out a fire that threatens people, homes, or important natural or cultural resources.
- Decisions are based on safety for the public and firefighters, what is threatened by the fire, forecasted weather, fire behavior, and what the fire and land-use plans or objectives are for the area.
- Firefighters provide the right response to a fire, for the right reasons, at the right time.

## 3. In general, fire seasons are becoming longer and many fires are more difficult to suppress.

- We’re never really out of fire season. Fires can burn at any time of the year in different parts of the country.
- Several reasons contribute to longer fire seasons: an abundance of flammable plants and trees; climate change; and more homes and other buildings in fire-prone areas.
- Even though the last two fire seasons have been mild in most of the country, firefighters expect future activity to increase.

## 4. In fire, we all work together.

- Local, state, tribal and federal firefighters all work together to keep the public safe and natural resources protected. Pooling our strengths, resources and experience improves our effectiveness and keeps costs down.

## 5. Firefighters count on you.

- If you own a home in a fire-prone area, you should take a few simple steps to make your property more defensible. It will increase your safety and that of firefighters, too. It will increase the chance that your home will survive a fire. Websites: <http://www.firewise.org>, <http://takeresponsibility.cafirealliance.com>, <http://www.livingwithfire.info>.
- Wildland firefighters are not responsible for making your home defensible. You are. What you do before fire season may make the difference whether your home survives.

