

Why We're Worried About Wildfire – Equation

NAME _____

The following equation summarizes why there is worry about wildfire:

Fire is a natural part of our environment. Our forests and rangelands were burning long before there were any cities or towns.	+	Many homes are built and maintained in this fire environment without regard to wildfire.	+	With more people using our wild lands, there is a greater chance of fire.	+	Today's wildfires can burn intensely and can be difficult to control.	=	Potential for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Greater loss of life• Increased property losses• More damage to natural resources• More money needed for firefighting
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1. How do you know that this is an equation?
2. Why is this information important to you?
3. How is this equation like others that you use in mathematical contexts?

LIVING WITH

FIRE

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION AND COOPERATIVE EXTENSION • SIERRA FRONT WILDFIRE COOPERATORS

LIVING IN A HIGH HAZARD FIRE ENVIRONMENT

Much of western Nevada and eastern California is considered a high hazard fire environment. Based on past experience, this area possesses all the ingredients necessary to support large, intense, and uncontrollable wildfires.

Within this hazardous environment, there are individual houses, subdivisions, and entire communities. Many homes, however, would be unable to survive an intense wildfire. Since it is not a question of "if" wildfires will occur but "when," they will occur, the likelihood of human life and property loss is great and growing.

Our ability to live more safely in this fire environment greatly depends upon our use of "pre-fire activities." Pre-fire activities are actions taken before a wildfire occurs which improve the survivability of people and homes. They include proper vegetation management around the home (known as defensible space), use of fire resistant building materials, appropriate subdivision design, and other measures. Research clearly demonstrates that pre-fire activities save lives and property.

Last May, the University of Nevada, Reno (Cooperative Extension and Agricultural Experiment Station) and the Sierra Front Wildfire Cooperators initiated a program entitled Living With Fire. Its purpose is to facilitate widespread implementation of pre-fire activities throughout western Nevada and eastern California. This publication is an example of one of the products produced by the program.

The LivingWith Fire program will help us coexist more safely with the threat of wildfire. For more information concerning the Living with Fire program call Ed Smith, UNR Cooperative Extension at (775) 782-9960 or Ronna Hubbard, Sierra Front Wildfire Cooperators at (775) 885-6137.



The pre-fire activities implemented by this homeowner included a green and well maintained landscape, reduction of wildland vegetation around the perimeter of the property, a fire resistant roof, and a good access road with a turnaround area. The charred surroundings of the home show that these pre-fire activities effectively protected

The Sierra Front Wildfire Cooperators is a coalition of local, state and federal firefighting agencies from western Nevada and eastern California formed to promote the effective response to wildfire.

THE "WHY WE'RE WORRIED ABOUT WILDFIRE" EQUATION

Fire is a natural part of our environment. Our forests and rangelands were burning long before there was a Reno, Carson City, Truckee, or South Lake Tahoe.

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Many homes are built and maintained in this fire environment without regard to wildfire.

+

With more people using our wildlands, there is a greater chance of fire starts.

+

Today's wildfires can burn intensely and be difficult to control.

=

Potential for:

- Greater loss of life
- Increased property losses
- More damage to natural resources
- More money needed for firefighting.