



Keeping you Knowledgeable, Safe, and in Compliance!

Ernest A. Emerson
Fire Protection Resource Library

A Volume From the Library

Summer: Wildfires & Personal Safety

July 1, 2016

Wildfires

Summer in Texas is prime wildfire season, and humans are the primary cause of these catastrophes. The heat of summer increases the risk of drought across many Texas counties. These dry conditions combined with campfires, barbecue cookouts, and Fourth of July fireworks create the ideal environment for combustion.

Burn bans and fireworks bans may help reduce wildfire reports, but often the best preventative is educating the community of what precautions should be taken when dealing with fire and incendiary devices. Departments often "spread

the word" through the use of traditional media, such as news reports and radio ads, but your department should not ignore the use of social media to inform constituents of bans and guidelines.

Personal Safety

The heat of summer also exacerbates the already scorching setting in which firefighters work. Heat stroke and heat exhaustion are very real threats and every firefighter should take steps to remain hydrated. Be vigilant for signs of hyperthermia and dehydration in your fellow firefighters and yourself. Stay safe out there!



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Additional Resources:

- [Report burn bans](#)
- [Texas Forest Service wild-fire preparation resources](#)
- [Heat-related sickness](#)

Training Videos Listed below is a sampling of the titles available from our lending library.

WILDLAND FIRE INVESTIGATION AV08-2249

Length: 30:00 Format: DVD

The U.S. Forest Service reports that incendiary fires typically constitute one-fourth to one-third of all fires on protected federal, state, and private lands. This course provides the information and techniques necessary to investigate a possible case of wildland arson. This course covers the eight common accidental causes of wildland fires, identifies the three intentional causes of wildland fire, and discusses the important tasks to perform upon arrival at a wildland fire including how to recognize the area of origin. A study guide accompanies the program. (c.2007)

WILDLAND FIREFIGHTER 2 AV14-2664

Length: 33 hrs. Format: DVD
Wildland Firefighter II DVD offers a unique delivery platform and wildland fire qualification system unmatched by any other

wildland video training program. This comprehensive package provides a toolkit to help instructors deliver National Wildfire Coordinating Group's NIMS S-130 and S-190. It also addresses standards of NFPA 1051. Each segment is designed around a three hour block of instruction for drill nights. It is a 40-hour course, including 33 hours of instruction and 7 hours of performance training. Useful for both instructor-led and self-study delivery. THIS SET CAN BE BORROWED FOR 3 MONTHS. (c2007)

HEAT, HEART, AND HEALTH AV07-2100

Length: 60:00 Format: DVD

This FETN program visits the fire departments of Las Vegas and Phoenix to see how they protect their firefighters, especially in the extreme heat, with their rehabilitation programs. Professor Denise Smith describes the physiologic effect of heat on the body and the importance of rehabilitation pro-

grams. It also presents the fitness and wellness programs developed by both departments and discusses the rehabilitation of a Phoenix firefighter who became a heart attack statistic, but who is now getting a second chance at life because of the department's cardiac rehab program. A study guide accompanies the DVD. (2007)

HEAT: WORKING IN HOT ENVIRONMENTS AV05-1863

Length: 25:00 Format: DVD

This DVD and Leader's Guide is designed for emergency responders, those who work in hot weather or hot conditions, and those who may be called upon to work in protective clothing ensembles. Topics covered are: how heat is transferred; how heat builds up in the human body; conditions that exacerbate heat buildup; symptoms of dehydration, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke; avoiding heat stress; specific heat issues relating to chemical protective clothing; medical monitoring; and treatment of heat injuries. (2004)

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