

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.

