

FOREST FIRES: Prevent them during the hot season

What are they?

Non-scheduled fire spread on vegetation. They may occur anytime because they depend on weather conditions and human activity

The amount of fuel, like dry grass or hay, branches, trees, etc., is the main element to determine the fire magnitude



9 out of 10

Fires in this country are man-made

Causes



Accidental:
Land or air transportation, and collapse of power lines



Intentional:
Illegal logging, conflict between communities



Natural:
Lightning bolts or volcanic eruptions

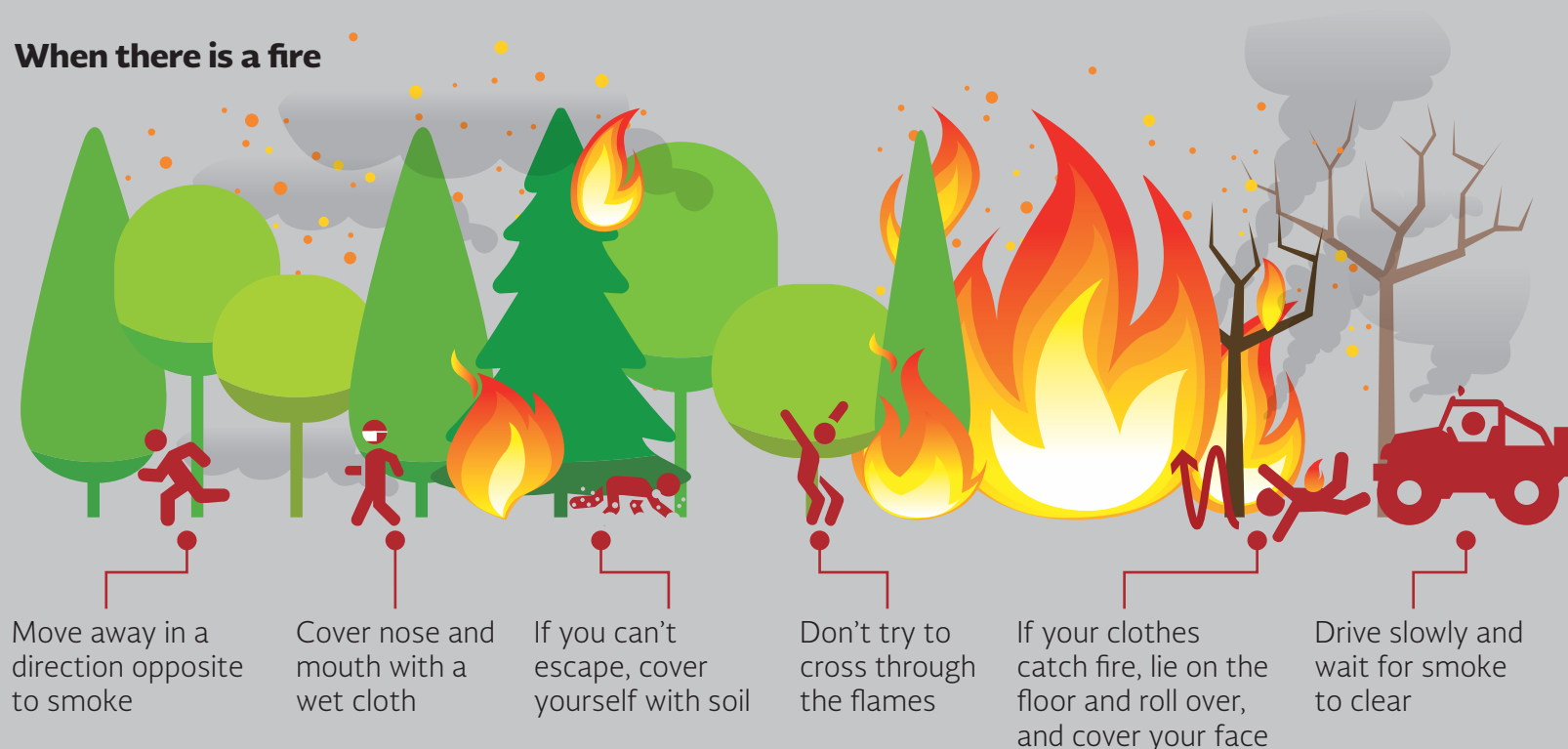


Negligence:
uncontrolled slash-and-burn, cigarette butts, and bonfires

Effects

- 1 Soil and vegetable covering are lost
- 2 Habitats for wild life and oxygen producing plants are lost
- 3 Carbon and greenhouse emissions increase

When there is a fire



Move away in a direction opposite to smoke

Cover nose and mouth with a wet cloth

If you can't escape, cover yourself with soil

Don't try to cross through the flames

If your clothes catch fire, lie on the floor and roll over, and cover your face

Drive slowly and wait for smoke to clear

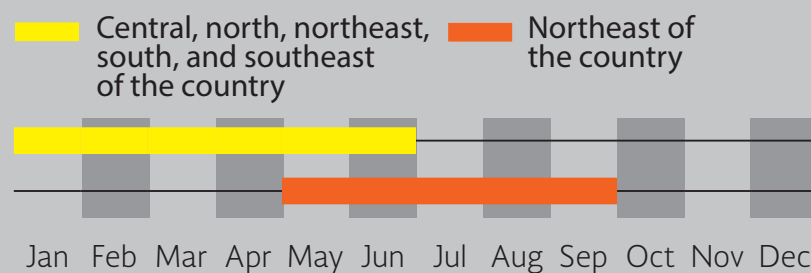
Be informed

Comisión Nacional Forestal, CONAFOR
www.gob.mx/conafor

Centro Nacional de Prevención de Desastres
www.gob.mx/cenapred

Wild fire seasons

In Mexico there are two forest fire seasons



Report emergencies to
800 737 00 00

Comisión Nacional Forestal
(National Forestry Commission of Mexico)

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Forest fires

Identify and report them. Take care of nature

How can they be prevented?

If you are visiting or hiking:

Don't throw flammable or lit materials or objects



Don't burn waste or garbage



If you are out in the field:

Don't accumulate combustible materials



If needed get a permit for controlled slash-and-burn actions



Slash-and-burn are preferable early in the morning; there is less wind and more moisture



Make sure it is completely put out



If you start a bonfire:



Choose an area away from trees, dry grass, and dead leaves



Put out the fire completely



Don't smoke in forests or grasslands

Bear in mind



Comision Nacional Forestal (CONAFOR) = National Forestry Commission of Mexico is in charge to prevent and fight forest fires, in coordination with state and municipal authorities

CONAFOR can offer, and you must request, the appropriate training to prevent forest fires

Classification

According to the type of fuels, there are three types of fires



Superficial

Fire spreads over the soil surface up to 1.5 meters (5 feet) high. These are the most common in Mexico



Air or tree-top

Fire burns all vegetation, they are dangerous, and very difficult to control



Underground

The start underground due to fuel accumulation and compacting, produce no flame or smoke. They are dangerous and difficult to control