Wildfires: Not in my backyard handout

Name: ___________________________________  Period: ___________________

Fill in the blank on the follow statements as you watch the PowerPoint.

**Introduction:**

1. Wildfire is an ____________ fire that burns fields, grass, brush, or forests.

2. Wildfires effect:
   a. ________________
   b. ________________
   c. ________________ and plants
   d. Personal ________________

3. Pennsylvania’s wildfire season is in the ________ and __________ when leaves are off the deciduous trees.

4. On average ________ acres burn each year due to wildfires.

5. Lightning is a major cause of western wildfires, but cause less than______% of Pennsylvania wildfires.

6. Most Western wildfires occur between _______________ to October when it is hot and dry. Most Pennsylvania wildfires occur from March to May and from October to November.

**Fire behavior and the environment**

7. Wildfire behavior and intensity is controlled by
   a. ________________
   b. Topography
   c. Weather

8. Grass, leaves and pine needs can dry in an ____________. Small twigs and branches take several hours to dry.

9. Low relative ____________, warmer temperatures, and wind rapidly dry grass, leaves, twigs, and branches.

10. Peak burning activity/wildfire risk is between 10 AM and _____ PM.
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11. Topography includes slope and _______. Each plays a role in wildfire behavior. Fire moves _______ up steep slopes and slower on flat terrain.

12. Aspect is the _______ (north, south, east or west) the terrain is facing. North facing slopes receive less direct early morning sunlight. South and west facing slopes receive direct afternoon and evening sunlight resulting in drier conditions.

13. Because of Pennsylvania’s size, there is a South to North transition as the vegetation becomes green in the spring. The process _______ itself as fall colors come upon us and trees lose their leaves prior to winter.

   This effects _______ wildfire activity occurs during these times.

Wildfire causes and way to reduce wildfire risk

14. Human activity causes _____% of all wildfires in Pennsylvania with _________ burning and arson as the leading causes.

15. Individual responsible for starting a wildfire in Pennsylvania can be held accountable for the cost of putting out the fire including

   a. manpower and _________
   b. _______________
   c. _______________

16. Practice safe debris burning.

   a. Clear an area _____feet around the barrel to prevent sparks from igniting material outside the barrel.
   b. Have ___________ and rake available to quickly put out sparks.
   c. Use a metal container with ½ inch ventilation holes at base to allow for quick and clean burning of debris.
   d. Put a ¼ inch expanded steel _________ on top of the barrel as a spark arrester. Always make sure the fire is completely out before you walk away from the burn barrel or burning debris.
17. Alternatives to burning debris
   a. ______________
   b. Mulching
   c. Wildlife habitat
   d. ______________

18. Check with you local Bureau of Forestry office about fire _________. When local or county-wide burn bans are in effect, campfires should not be used. When camping, use a stove to cook to reduce the risk of wildfire. A self-contained metal or ceramic fire pit can be used in place of an open campfire. And as always, be sure camp fires are put out cold.

19. Smokey’s message: Only you can ___________ wildfires.