

Safe Debris Burning Teacher Worksheet

Fill in the blank on the following questions as you watch the movie.

Introduction

1. **36%** of wildfires are caused by debris burning each year.
2. **83%** of wildfires occur between March and May.
3. Debris burning wildfires most often occur during **spring** and **fall** cleanup.
4. Types of debris include:
 - a. Construction piles
 - b. **Household** trash
 - c. Leaf and **brush** piles
5. It is illegal to burn:
 - a. **Tires**
 - b. **Plastic**
 - c. Toxic chemicals and materials

What went wrong?

6. What factors caused the wildfire?
 - a. Windy day. It **dries** out grass, leaves and fallen tree limbs. It also increased fire spread and intensity.
 - b. The warm **weather** and lack of rain dried out the vegetation and allowed the vegetation to stay dry.
 - c. The burn barrel was located too **close** to the house and tree on an upward slope. Fire moves faster on a slope than on level ground.

Safe Debris Burning Teacher Worksheet

- d. The person burned the trash after the morning **dew** had evaporated and the plants were dry.
- e. The person **walked** away from the fire.
- f. The area around the burn barrel had dry leaves and grass that easily **ignite**.
- g. The homeowner did not have **water** to extinguish the fire.
- h. The burn barrel was too close to the **house**.

Five simple steps to reducing wildfire risk

1. Clear an area **ten** feet around the barrel to prevent sparks from igniting material outside the barrel.
2. Have a rake and **water** available to quickly put out sparks.
3. Use a **metal** container with 1/2 inch ventilation holes at the base to allow for quick and clean burning of debris.
4. Put a 1/4 inch expanded steel mesh **screen** on top of the barrel as a spark arrester.
5. Always make sure the fire is **completely** out before you walk away from the debris burner or burning leaves.

Before you burn consider the following:

1. local **burn** bans
2. Weather. **Sunny** and dry day is the wrong day to burn.
3. Burn barrel **location**. Make sure 10 feet is cleared around the barrel and it is not located near a structure or wooded area.
4. Clear **flammable** materials away from burn barrel.

Wildfires impact

1. **Neighbors'** properties
2. State and private **forests**

Safe Debris Burning Teacher Worksheet

3. **Vehicles**
4. **Wildlife** and their habitat
5. **Firefighters.** On average three fatalities are caused by debris burning each year.
6. If you start a wildfire, you are responsible for the cost of putting out the fire. Costs can include volunteer firefighters, Bureau of Forestry personnel, and **aircraft** costs. Damage to other property can leave you open to criminal or civil charges.

Alternatives to debris burning

1. **Recycling**
2. **Brush** piles
3. **Chipping/mulching**
4. **Composting**
5. **Municipal** dumps