



Preparing for Wildfire

PLEASE NOTE:

Students must complete the “Initiation” section of the **Monster Guard** app before they begin this activity, in order to gain access to the Wildfire training mission.



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Opening

Inform students that they are going to learn about wildfires and how to stay safe when a wildfire happens. Ask students to raise their hands if they know what a wildfire is. Then ask them if they have ever seen a wildfire (even on TV). Assess for prior knowledge by asking students to share what they know about wildfires (e.g. what did you see on TV, what is a wildfire?). Explain that wildfires occur most often in forests and grasslands, but can spread to suburban and urban neighborhoods.

Monster Guard

Tell students that they will be learning more about wildfires with a cool app called **Monster Guard**. Explain that **Monster Guard** was created by the American Red Cross as a way for students to have fun learning, practicing, and sharing how to stay safe during different types of emergencies.

Adapt your teaching instructions to the various methods of playing **Monster Guard** – whether you are using a smart board to play as a class or having students play in small groups or individually using mobile devices.

Before they begin playing, remind students that they need to watch the videos before and after the training mission for information that will help them complete the classroom activities.

Pass out the activity sheet, read the introduction together, and have students go through the Wildfire training mission with Tolly. Remind them to write their score in the space provided on the activity sheet. As a class, have students suggest ways they think they could raise their scores the next time.

Grades 1-3

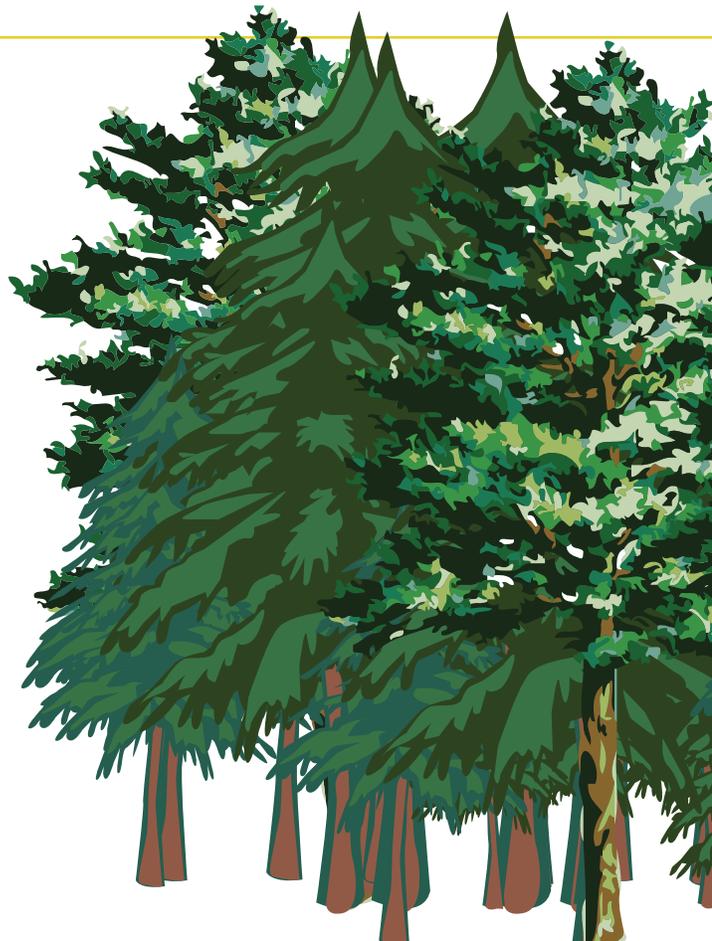
PART 1. Read the introduction to Part 1 of the activity. Talk about how fire is part of the forest ecosystem. Explain that fire burns away dead and diseased trees, and opens space for new trees to grow. But fire can be destructive when it burns into areas where people live. That's why it's important to be prepared for wildfire, especially if you live near a forest or grassland.

Ask students to think about their own homes and share ways they could make their property safe if they lived in a wildfire area. Then have them draw pictures of their homes in the space provided. Write *Fire Hazards* on the board, and the words *leaves*, *branches*, *debris*, *firewood*, *grill* on the board and tell students to draw pictures of them where they belong—outside the buffer zone. If time allows, let the students share their drawings.

PART 2. Read the introduction to Part 2 of the activity. Review the steps students need to take to be prepared for and respond correctly to a wildfire. Remind them that they can replay the **Monster Guard** Wildfire training mission if they need help.

Answers: 1C; 2E; 3D; 4A; 5B.

Continued on next page



Grades 4-6

PART 1. Read the introduction to Part 1 of the activity. Talk about how fire is part of the forest ecosystem. Explain that fire burns away dead and diseased trees, and opens space for new trees to grow. But fire can be destructive when it burns into areas where people live. That's why it's important to be prepared for wildfire, especially if you live near a forest or grassland.

Have students work individually to diagram their homes and mark a buffer zone around the home. Discuss what kinds of potential fire hazards a family might have to move outside the buffer zone – e.g., dead leaves, dead branches, firewood, a gas grill, propane tanks, etc. Have students draw pictures of potential fire hazards positioned outside their buffer zone. Compare students' drawings in a class discussion. Then challenge students to calculate the area of their buffer zones in square feet.

PART 2. Have students work individually to complete Part 2 of the activity. Remind them that they can replay the **Monster Guard** Wildfire training mission if they need help. Review the answers in a class discussion.

Answers: 1- evacuation; 2- supplies kit; 3- buffer zone; 4- warnings; 5- evacuate. Some additional tips- Be careful with fire outdoors; Make sure your home address is visible from the road; Practice your evacuation plan.

PART 3. Read the introduction to Part 3 and view the short video at www.nfpa.org/public-education/campaigns/takeaction/household-pets as a class. Discuss the ways people in the video prepare to keep their pets and other animals safe in case of wildfire. Then divide students into small groups to research and create their "Wildfire Safety for Pets and Animals" flyers. Share the flyers in a class discussion.



Teachers:

Please provide feedback on this activity using our online feedback form at www.ymiclassroom.com/mgfeedback-wildfire.

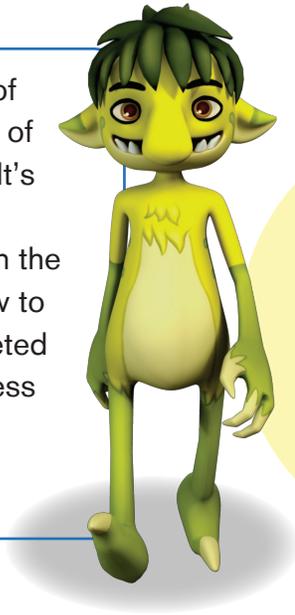


Preparing for Wildfire

Grades 1-3
Reproducible Master

Hi! I'm Tolly. Every year, wildfires destroy millions of acres of forests and grasslands. They damage or destroy hundreds of homes. Want to learn more? Download **Monster Guard**. It's a free app from the American Red Cross that teaches kids how to be prepared for emergencies. Choose "Wildfire" on the main menu. Then join me on a training mission to learn how to protect a home from wildfire. **Note:** You must have completed the **Monster Guard** Initiation section before you can access the Wildfire training mission.

My Wildfire Safety Score: _____



Part 1

Fire is a natural part of forest ecosystems. But most wildfires are not natural. Nine out of ten are started by people being careless with fire outdoors. That's why it's important to be prepared for wildfire, especially if you live near a forest or grassland.

Show how you would protect your home from wildfire. Draw a picture of your home in the middle of the oval below. This oval space is called a *buffer zone*. Any fire hazards should be outside the buffer zone, at least 30 feet away from the home. Draw fire hazards outside the buffer zone, where they belong. Your teacher will help you.



Preparing for Wildfire

Grades 1-3
Reproducible Master

Part 2

Do you remember your wildfire safety training? The pictures below show how you can prepare to stay safe if a wildfire ever comes near your home. Match each picture up with the wildfire safety action below and help get your home ready!



1. Plan two safe evacuation routes.
2. Have an emergency supplies kit ready to go.
3. Clear a buffer zone around the home.
4. Pay attention to wildfire warnings.
5. Leave home immediately if officials tell you to evacuate.



A _____



B _____



C _____



D _____



E _____

Replay the
Monster Guard
Wildfire training
mission. See if you
can score higher!



Preparing for Wildfire

Grades 4-6
Reproducible Master

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Note: You must have completed the **Monster Guard** Initiation section before you can access the Wildfire training mission.

My Wildfire Safety Score: _____



Part 1

Fire is a natural part of forest ecosystems. But most wildfires are not natural. Nine out of ten are started by people being careless with fire outdoors. That's why it's important to be prepared for wildfire, especially if you live near a forest or grassland. Use this drawing space to start getting prepared.

- First, draw a diagram of your home in the middle of the space. Each square represent two feet, so try to make your diagram accurate.
- Now mark a *buffer zone* around your home. The edge of your buffer zone should be 30 feet away from the home on all sides. This is a space cleared of anything that might catch on fire. It helps keep a wildfire from coming close to your home.
- Last, draw pictures to show where you would store fire wood, a grill, and other potential fire hazards. Remember, anything that might catch on fire should be outside your buffer zone.

