



TakeAction

Teens for Wildfire Safe Communities

Video Series

Part 2

Bastrop, Texas

Five Years After a Wildfire

Dear Educator,

Welcome to Part 2 of the *TakeAction: Teens for Wildfire Safe Communities* video series, a standards-based program designed by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and Young Minds Inspired (YMI) to help teens understand the dangers of wildfires and the role young adults can play in mitigating their homes, protecting natural resources, and raising community awareness. We hope you enjoy — and share — these valuable materials.

Sincerely,

Dr. Dominic Kinsley
Editor in Chief
Young Minds Inspired

About This Guide

Created as part of NFPA's *TakeAction: Teens for Wildfire Safe Communities*, this program comprises a 3-part video series and these accompanying lesson plans. In each video, classes will learn about a major U.S. fire and learn from experts how the people and land have recovered over time. Overall, the materials aim to teach students about the short- and long-term impact of wildfires; introduce key terms and concepts; and empower students to get involved in protecting their homes, neighborhoods, and natural resources and to participate in awareness-raising community projects. Designed for use with students in grades 6-8 who live in or near areas at risk for wildfire, the materials align with Common Core standards for Language Arts and may also be appropriate for science, social studies, or health and safety educators.

About This Video

In **Bastrop, Texas: Five Years After a Wildfire**, we meet Kari Hines, a Wildland Urban Interface Specialist with the Texas A&M Forest Service, and learn how Bastrop State Park is recovering five years after 90% of its vegetation was destroyed by wildfire. Hines explains the difference between high- and low-intensity fires and what families can do to mitigate during the rebuilding process.



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Part 2: Bastrop, Texas - Five Years After a Wildfire

Teacher's Guide

Show the video to your class, or assign them to watch it at home. Lead a class discussion using the questions below and the discussion points in italics. The follow-up activity extensions are ideas to launch a more in-depth study of the relevant topics.

Discussion Questions:

1. Ninety percent of Bastrop State Park was destroyed by a wildfire that affected 32,000 acres of land. What vegetation has begun to grow back and which types of plants will take longer to return?
2. The damage caused by wildfires can be easy to see, but there can be benefits as well. According to Kari Hines, what are some benefits of low-severity wildfires?
3. Hines tells us that the Bastrop fire destroyed 1,660 homes. And while many have been rebuilt, some residents chose not to return to the area at all. How do you think you would feel if you were displaced by a wildfire? Do you think you would want to return to rebuild your home?
4. Based on this video, define "mitigate." Hines takes us through a well-mitigated property that survived the Bastrop fire. What is the significance of the concrete border between the house and the lawn? What other features of the home's construction are "firewise"?
5. What is the "Home Ignition Zone?" What steps does Hines list that YOU can do today to protect your Home Ignition Zone and help others do the same?
6. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has created a list of community awareness projects for teens. Why do you think it's important that entire communities—and not just a few residents—mitigate their homes and neighborhoods with Firewise design? *Because mitigation reduces fuel sources, it can prevent fires from spreading and make it easier for firefighters to contain. Thus, every Firewise house helps protect the homes around it.*

Extension Activity:

Have students create a diagram of their home and property, emphasizing key areas of their Home Ignition Zone. Using their diagram and the Firewise website, have them work with their families to create a mitigation plan for their home. Students whose families live in an apartment or condominium might choose a relative or friend's home or the common space at the condo to use as their base of study.

Resources:

- <http://firewise.org/wildfire-preparedness/be-firewise/home-and-landscape.aspx?sso=0>
- http://www.fire.ca.gov/communications/downloads/fact_sheets/TheBenefitsofFire.pdf
- <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/campaigns/takeaction/wildfire-risk-reduction-community-service-projects>

Find out how you can TakeAction to help prepare your community for a wildfire at www.nfpa.org/takeaction.



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