



FOREST FIRE

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Introduction

Forest fire is the most frequent threat in forests. Fires in woods have existed for as long as the forests themselves. They drastically disrupt a region's bio-diversity, ecology, and ecosystem, endangering not just the wealth of forests but also the entire regime of flora and wildlife. When there is no rain for months in the summer, the forests are covered in dry, senescent leaves and twinges that could catch fire at the first sign of a spark. Over the past several summers, there has been a significant loss of vegetation cover in the Himalayan forests, especially in the Garhwal Himalayas, due to frequent burning.

Because forest fire reduces the wealth of plants and animals, it upsets the natural equilibrium and threatens biodiversity. It is now crucial to increase public awareness of the issue, especially among those who live near or in forested areas, as traditional fire control techniques are not working.

Causes of Forest Fire

Both natural and man-made factors contribute to forest fires.

- Natural Causes
- Man-made Causes



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Natural causes: Lightning is a common natural cause of forest fires, as it ignites trees. Rain, however, puts out these fires with little harm. Dryness (low humidity) and high air temperatures provide ideal conditions for a fire to begin.

Man-made causes: Fire starts when an inflammable item comes into touch with a fire source, such as a naked flame, cigarette or bidi, electric spark, or any other source of ignition.

There has been a sharp rise in the causes of forest fires. The increasing number of people and cattle has made the issue worse. More and more people are going into woods to gather fuelwood, lumber, cattle grazing, and other small forest products. Ninety percent of forest fires in India are thought to be caused by humans.

Forest Fire Categorization

Three major categories can be used to classify forest fires:

- Forest fire, either natural or managed.
- Summertime forest fires brought on by heat produced in the trash and other biomes by human negligence
- Intentionally started forest fires by locals

The fire management requirements

Every year, more land is destroyed in forest fires, which are becoming increasingly common throughout the nation. The fragmented approach to the issue is the primary reason for this failure. The nation lacks the technical resources and national attention needed to maintain a systematic forest fire management program. Key components of forest fire management are absent, including finance, human resource development, coordination between Ministries, strategic fire centers, fire research, fire management, and extension programs.

Given the gravity of the issue, the nation's forest fire control plan needs to undergo some significant changes. A National Master Plan for Forest Fire Control has been created by the Indian government's Ministry of Environment and Forests.



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The following elements are part of the well-coordinated and integrated fire-management program that this plan aims to implement:

- Quick actions to launch an attack.
- Aggressive follow-up.
- Installing a system for modifying forest fuel at key locations.
- Resources for battling fires.

Every one of the aforementioned elements is crucial to the overall effectiveness of the fire management system. Particular attention should be paid to training, development, and research.

