

New Jersey

WILDFIRE SAFETY SKILLS

A Program of Wildfire Prevention Education
For Students in Grades K – 12



New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Parks and Forest
Forest Fire Service



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State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
DIVISION OF PARKS & FORESTRY
FOREST FIRE SERVICE

JON S. CORZINE
Governor

LISA P. JACKSON
Commissioner

Thank-you for your interest in providing wildfire prevention lessons to the students of New Jersey! This innovative approach to delivering practical fire safety education is focused on reducing the number of accidental and malicious wildfires started each year within the State.

Nearly 20% of the wildfires that occur in New Jersey annually are determined to be caused by children, with another 24% undetermined as to the exact cause, and 20% found to be arson. By teaching our children early to be careful with fire and to understand the benefits that forests and grasslands provide, the annual devastation and loss can be reduced.

The Wildfire Prevention Education curriculum was developed to provide lesson plans for educators and firefighters that would meet New Jersey core curriculum standards and complement the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety's "Fire Safety Skills." Additionally, select lesson plans are incorporated that can be used as the fire safety component for juvenile fire safety education. Whether in the classroom or in the firehouse, these age-equivalent lesson plans reinforce standard safety messages and encourage an understanding of the job wildland firefighters do to protect life, property, and New Jersey's natural resources.

We wish to acknowledge the assistance of the Division of Fire Safety for the use of its Fire Safety Skills program which was adopted from a fire safety education program developed and implemented within the State of Oregon.

Funding for this project was received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Assistance to Firefighter's Grant Program and was developed by Ms. Corde' Reed, an accomplished educator and wildland firefighter. The lesson plan is available at no cost while supplies last from:

New Jersey Forest Fire Service.
501 East State Street
PO Box 404
Trenton, NJ 08625

About the author...

Cordé M. Reed earned her Bachelor's Degree in 1992 from the College of William Paterson of Wayne, New Jersey. She earned her Master's Degree in Education from the University of William Paterson in the spring of 1998. She holds several certifications: Elementary Teacher; Teacher of the Handicapped; and Learning Disabilities Teacher – Consultant. Cordé recently obtained her Supervisor's Certificate through Rutgers University in the spring of 2006.

Cordé has been working in the field of education since 1992. All of these years have been spent within the District of Montville Township, Morris County. Cordé is currently employed as a Learning Consultant on the Middle School Child Study Team.

Cordé resides in Rockaway Township, New Jersey. She is a New Jersey Forest Fire Service crewmember in Division A. She has been married to Brian D. Reed since 1997. Brian is a Forest Fire Service District Fire Warden of Division A/Section 5. Cordé and Brian have two loving daughters named Sarah and Sophia.

ORGANIZATION OF WILDFIRE LESSONS

Group 1

- Pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten → AGE EQUIVALENT (AE): 3-6 years old

Group 2

- First Grade through Third → AE: 6-8

Group 3

- Fourth Grade through Sixth → AE: 8-11

Group 4

- Seventh & Eighth Grades → AE: 11-14

Group 5

- Ninth Grade through 12th grade → AE: 14-18

(Groups are intentionally overlapping for older and/or retained students.)

The desired use for the collection of lessons found within is three-fold: First, the lessons will afford wildland fire instructors with wildfire prevention lessons and resources; secondly, a component for Juvenile Fire Setter Education; and lastly, provide classroom teachers mobility with lessons that correlate with curriculum content standards of the State of New Jersey. This user-friendly tool is for Fire Service instructors and classroom teachers alike. Lessons provide awareness to wildfire and its characteristics in a outdoor or wildland setting. Basic fire knowledge is addressed in the first two groups and topics gradually increase with wildfire awareness and career exploration. Lessons can be adapted to suit the needs of the instructor and/or student. This compilation is proposed to be a starting point for one to work with. Most lessons can be completed within one class period. For older student groups, lessons may take two class periods.

Lessons indicated with an asterisk “*” are applicable for Juvenile Fire Setter Education and may be used with Juvenile Fire Setters of that age. It is **strongly** urged that any child with a fire setting history be referred to a recognized program and receive an assessment. For further information, contact the **Juvenile Fire Setter Hotline at 1-800-357-5230.**ⁱ

Fourth and fifth group lessons may have homework/research for the students to complete. Should a lesson include this, it will be noted with the letters “HW” within the number of the lesson.

Lessons:

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title of Lesson</u>
1-A	What is a Forest?
1-B	What is a Fire?
1-C	What is Hot? What is Cold?
1-D* HW	Matches and Lighters are for Grown Ups.
1-E	What is a Wildfire?
1-F	How do you Report a Fire?
2-A	The Fire Triangle
2-B	Who are Wildland Firefighters?
2-C	Smokey Bear
2-D	Forest Firefighters and their Equipment
2-E* HW	Smoke Danger
2-F	What I can't See might Hurt me.
3-A	Thermal Burns
3-B* HW	Arson
3-C	Fire Management and Prescribed Burning
3-D	A pleasant breeze on a warm sunny day? NOT TO FIRE!
3-E	A Wildfire was here. How do you Know?
3-F	Protect your home from Wildfire.
4-A* HW	Curiosity or Fire Play?
4-B	What is a Lookout Tower?
4-C	Fire Danger Rating System
4-D HW	Aircraft for Fires?
5-A HW	Blazing Laptops
5-B HW	Smokey the Bear Takes Algebra (<i>Advanced</i>)
5-C* HW	Wildland Firefighting and Fire Safety
5-D HW	To Develop or Not to Develop?
5-E	So, Do you think you have what it takes?

[New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards](#) (NJCCCS) ⁱⁱ have been cited for teachers as they continue to address the NJCCCS within their respective school districts.

Visual and Performing Arts www.state.nj.us/njded/cccs/s1_vpa.htm

Comprehensive Health and Physical Education www.state.nj.us/njded/cccs/s2_chpe.htm

Language Arts Literacy www.state.nj.us/njded/cccs/s3_lal.htm

Mathematics www.state.nj.us/njded/cccs/s4_math.htm

Science www.state.nj.us/njded/njded/cccs/s5_science.htm

Social Studies www.state.nj.us/njded/cccs/s6_ss.htm

World Languages www.state.nj.us/njded/cccs/s7_wl.htm

Technological Literacy www.state.nj.us/njded/cccs/s8_tech.htm

Career Education and Consumer, Family and Life Skills
www.state.nj.us/njded/cccs/s9_career.htm

ⁱ [NJ Department of Community Affairs](#)
Department of Community Affairs
P. O. Box 800
Trenton, NJ 08625-0800

ⁱⁱ [NJ Department of Education](#)
Department of Education
PO BOX 500
TRENTON, NJ 08625
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