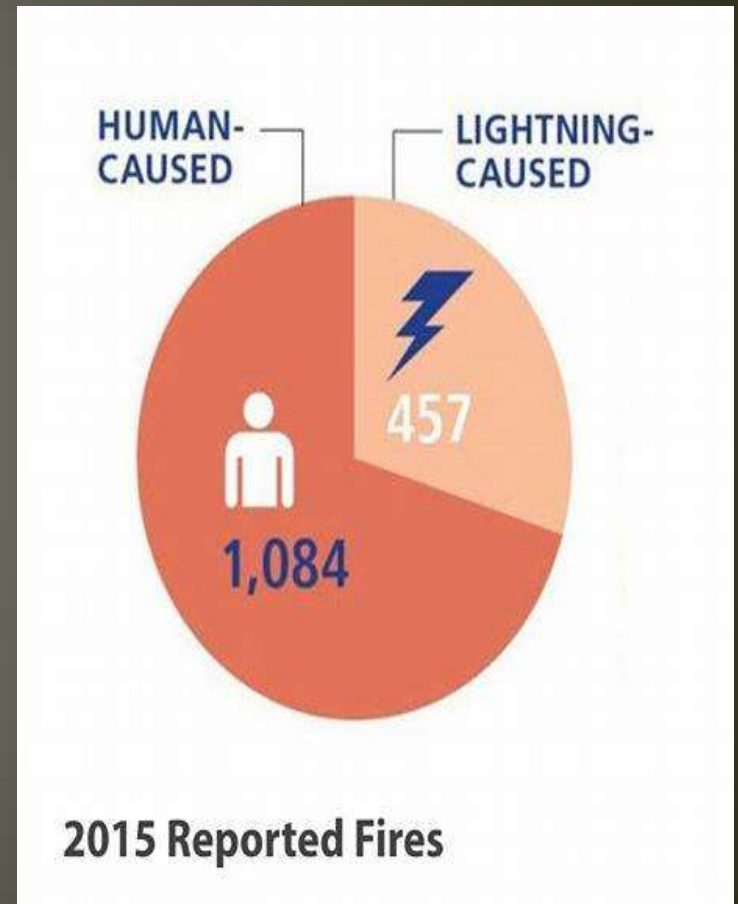




**Forest fire
protection in
Poland and Europe**

Causes of Wildfires

A number of sources can cause wildfires, but humans are by far the largest contributing factor. Natural wildfires typically occur during times of drought combined with lightning strikes that ignite dry grass or brush, but this scenario accounts for less than 31% of all wildfires. The remaining wildfires are due to some form of human contribution. Below are just some of the ways humans can cause devastating wildfires.



Main sources of fires caused by human's activities

- Yard Waste Burning
- Fireworks
- Cigarettes
- Vehicles
- Campfires



The safest way to deal with fire is to prevent it

A fire needs three elements - heat, oxygen and fuel.

Without heat, oxygen and fuel a fire will not start or spread. A key strategy to prevent fire is to remove one or more of heat, oxygen or fuel. The risk assessment should include detail on all three elements to minimise the risk of a fire starting/ spreading.



Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC)

The operational heart of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, monitors forest fire risk and incidence across Europe around the clock using national monitoring services.

Before the beginning of the forest fire season, the ERCC organises meetings with all countries participating in the EU Civil Protection Mechanism to exchange information on the state of preparedness for the upcoming season.

The EU Civil Protection Mechanism has been activated more than 69 times since 2007 to respond to forest fires inside and outside Europe, including for advisory missions.

ERCC collects and analyses real-time information on disasters, monitors hazards, prepares plans for the deployment of experts, teams and equipment, and works with Member States to map available assets and coordinate the EU's disaster response efforts by matching offers of assistance to the needs of the disaster-stricken country. Better planning and the preparation of a set of typical disaster scenarios will further enhance the ERCC's capacity for rapid response.

Tactics of fighting with forest fires

1. Fight fire with fire by creating a fireline.

This is the objective of most agencies as it contains the fire immediately, preventing spreading and future damage. Sometimes the easiest and fastest way to fight a fire is to do a controlled burn around the perimeter of a forest fire. A controlled burn will allow you to cut off the fuel source of the larger fire by already burning off the dry plants, thus stopping the spread of the fire.

2. Use water as a fire suppression tool.

Nature's way is still the best way and it probably always will be. It removes the fuel source by making it too moist and can suppress oxygen to the flames. When fire crews arrive at a forest fire, they set up power pumps at the closest water source that they can find and then they run their hoses to the fire. Or it may be brought in via tanker or helibucket.

If you are by yourself or with your family and not with a professional fire fighting team, make every effort to control a fire with water available so as not to spread the flames and create a larger fire. However, if the fire grows even the slightest bit, call the fire department and **evacuate immediately**.

A fireline can also be created with water, soaking up the perimeter of the fire, preventing future spreading.

3. Consider suppressant foam.

If you are part of a fire management agency in your area or can get a hold of one, consider this alternative to water, which may be in short supply. Whether you use an aerial or a ground application, suppressant foam can help you extinguish your fires faster by acting as an insulated barrier to keep unburned fuels from being ignited.

The bubble structure of the foam also gives you a slower, more controlled water drainage, which helps you penetrate better and longer into the fuel sources.

Prevention

Don't light grass fires or burn debris. Contact your local fire department in advance to confirm that burning is allowed and to find out whether a permit is required to burn. If it is particularly windy in your area, it may not be advisable to start any type of fire.

Prepare the site correctly. The ground around the burn site should be surrounded by gravel or mineral soil (dirt) for at least ten feet in all directions. Remain with your fire. Stay with it until it is *completely* out. To ensure the fire has been completely extinguished, drown the fire with water, turn over the ashes with a shovel and drown it again. Repeat several times.

Exercise campfire safety. Having a bonfire can be an absolute blast, but if done unsafely, can result in serious damage. Make sure to exercise logic and caution when having a campfire. Do not build a fire at a site in hazardous, dry conditions. *Do not* build a fire if the campground, area, or event rules prohibit campfires. If there is not an existing fire pit, and pits are allowed, look for a site that is at least fifteen feet away from tent walls, shrubs, trees or other flammable objects. Also beware of low-hanging branches overhead.

- Notify your fire station before burning – A permit is required for any outdoor fire during the Fire Season
- Never start a fire in strong winds
- Do not leave fires unattended
- Completely extinguish all fires before leaving an area
- Completely extinguish matches/cigarettes before disposing
- Never attempt to burn aerosol cans; heated cans will explode!
- Instead of burning cuttings create a compost that you can then use to fertilise your plants
- Clear land manually or mechanically by cutting grass and other vegetation
- Scattering a campfire or burning debris can cause the spread of fires

Źródła:

<http://www.ema.co.tt/new/index.php/tips/146-forest-fire-prevention-tips>

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/forests/fires.htm>

<https://www.sgsp.edu.pl/incoming-students/course-catalogue/forest-fire-protection>

<http://www.wikihow.com/Fight-a-Forest-Fire>

<http://www.ctif.org/ctif/world-fire-statistics>

http://ec.europa.eu/echo/what-we-do/civil-protection/forest-fires_en

<http://www.ema.co.tt/new/index.php/tips/146-forest-fire-prevention-tips>

http://www.borealforest.org/world/innova/fire_prevention.htm

Prezentację wykonali:

Angelika Blicharczyk

Angelika Znój

Tomasz Lorenc

Zespół szkół ponadgimnazjalnych numer 5 w Krośnie (III LO).

Klasa: IIF1