

## CONSEQUENCES OF BUSH FIRES

- ⓧ Bush fires can destroy valuable crops, plants, fruit trees and forested areas.
  - ⓧ Bush fires can cause loss of human life and property.
  - ⓧ Fires leave the soil empty of its natural cover, and soil erosion and landslides often result. Soil fertility is reduced.
  - ⓧ Smoke and fumes produced during bush fires can have adverse effect on human health.
- Individuals suffering from respiratory illnesses such as asthma and sinusitis can be adversely affected.
- ⓧ As a consequence of erosion following bush fires, roads and drains may be blocked, and streams and rivers filled with sediment.

In addition run-off is accelerated and the amount of water entering the soil to replenish underground reservoirs is reduced.

## HOW TO PREVENT BUSH FIRES

- ⓧ Avoid burning fires to clear land especially during the dry season. Never light a fire in the open area when it is windy.
- ⓧ If you absolutely must burn, construct a firebreak by clearing an area around the proposed area to be burnt.
- ⓧ Get proper instructions and guidance from the Fire Department, your Forestry Officer or an Agricultural Extension Officer.
- ⓧ Smokers should ensure that butts and other lighted materials are extinguished before leaving the point of disposal.
- ⓧ Fires should not be started idly.

For further information contact:  
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Tel: 876-906-9674-5 or 876-754-9077-8  
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# FIRE SAFETY





## FIRE SAFETY TIPS

The menace of fire as a potential disaster is with us everyday. Many of the deaths that have resulted from fires could have been avoided if these basic fire safety precautions had been observed and put into practice.

### 1 PREPARE AND PRACTISE A FIRE PLAN, WHICH SHOULD INCLUDE:

- a. The establishment of a way of escape from each section or room of the building.
- b. The establishment of alternative routes out of the building.
- c. Training every occupant of the house or building on a regular basis, and carrying out fire drills, both day and night.
- d. Making yourself familiar with the quickest means of calling the fire brigade.

### 2 WHAT TO DO IF FIRE BREAKS OUT:

- a. **Raise an Alarm** to warn others of the emergency.
- b. On suspicion of fire, get children and helpless persons out of the building immediately.
- c. Get out of the building immediately.
- d. **Do not go back into a burning building.** You may not come out alive.
- e. If you are trapped in the building, lie flat on the ground and try to creep out; the air is clearer near the floor.
- f. **Call the Fire Brigade at 110.**
- g. No matter where you live or work, be familiar with all exits, including windows.
- h. Remember to turn off gas connections and electricity.

### 3 HOW TO PREVENT FIRES:

- a. Do not keep gasoline in or near domestic areas.
- b. Do not buy or keep gasoline or other highly inflammable liquids in breakable containers.
- c. Do not leave inflammable liquids carelessly placed at home or in immediate reach of children.
- d. Do not leave open flames, such as candles and kerosene lamps, in the reach of children. If possible, avoid using candles, especially when there are children in the house. Never allow children to use matches, nor leave them within their reach.
- e. Do not leave electric irons, hot plates or other appliances plugged in as over heating can cause fire.

## HOW BUSH FIRES ARE STARTED

Bush Fires have now become a problem in Jamaica, especially during the dry and windy period of February to August. Bush fires often result from the indiscriminate and uncontrolled use of fires and can be prevented.

In other instances, bush fires are often started from the burning of charcoal, or unattended fires. Careless disposal of cigarette butts in dry areas may also start bush fires.