

Wildfires are **unplanned** or **uncontrolled fires** in the countryside or open areas in towns and cities. They usually happen when the weather has been hot and the ground, trees and bushes are very dry. If there is any type of breeze or wind they spread even more quickly.

They usually happen when people have used **barbecues** when having a **picnic**; if **glass bottles** are left lying on the ground in the countryside or if **cigarettes are thrown from car windows**.

They cause a lot of damage and destruction to the land and animals and people can be seriously hurt.

Firefighters spend many, many hours fighting a wildfire; trying to put out a wildfire can last **days** and even **weeks**. It needs **hundreds** of firefighters, lots of engines and sometimes aeroplanes and helicopters to put out the fire. It is unbelievably **hot** and incredibly **dangerous**. Sometimes when the firefighters think they have beaten the fire, it starts up again.

Look at these two pictures; this is one of our fire fighters at a recent wildfire and this is a picture of the wildfire the fire crew were involved in.



Imagine what fire fighters feel and think; some ideas to help:

How do they feel as they are driving in the engine to the fire?

What are their thoughts the first time they see the wildfire burning?

What are their feelings as they fight the fire?

What can they see, hear, smell and taste?

Describe the wildfire and how it starts to burn and spread.

Describe what happens as the fire is finally put out. How do the firefighters feel afterwards?

Write it all down – it can be as a piece of extended writing, a haiku, a poem or a word cloud.

When you've finished take a photo or send a copy to our Education Team and we'll put them on our Facebook page and website: education@dsfire.gov.uk