

Listen to the audio and match the synonyms to the words in bold

Article 6. Fireball Dropping Drones

The profession of firefighting must be quicker, safer, and cover greater ground. Fighting fires still depends on cutting **firebreaks**, setting backfires, and spraying water. The best tools are often simple ones: water hoses, bulldozers, brush-clearing axes.

Firefighters have taken innovative steps to try to keep up with the flames. An **array** of new and existing technologies has been pulled into the **fray** including fireball-dropping drones. Because of their size and **manoeuvrability**, drones can access places that **fixed-wing** aircraft and helicopters cannot, making them arguably the greatest innovation in firefighting this year.

The drone can release 450 **incendiary** devices in less than four minutes. The small balls are **pin injected** with antifreeze, which reacts with the **ethylene glycol** inside. The drone will drop ping pong ball-sized devices that explode when they hit the ground, starting small fires that will rob an **approaching** fire of the fuel it needs to spread. These small fires are known as **backfires**.

The small balls enable the backfire to cover a strip of land that is 300 to 400 feet wider, which made it a much more effective **barrier** against the spread of the **wildfire**.

nationalgeographic.com/science/2020/10/fireball-dropping-drones-help-fight-fires/

Watch this video to learn more!

prevention

combustable

clash

blaze

fire line

variety

close in

inserted

controlled movement

compound (ch_2oh)₂

