# Californian Forest fires

At the moment, forest fires are burning widely through California in America. Thirty-one people have died so far and 250,000 people had to evacuate their homes. A major danger is that the fires can start in different areas and people and animals can become surrounded by fire and have no escape.



No one knows how the fires have started yet but because of the strong winds, the experts say that the fires could last for three more weeks.

California is the home for many celebrities and their homes are worth many millions of dollars. But they have also had to flee and some of these mansions have already been destroyed. The fires do not discriminate between beautiful mansions and normal homes. They destroy everyone and everything in their path.

So what causes a forest fire? – 90% of forest fires in America are manmade, either deliberately or accidentally. It could be a cigarette carelessly thrown away, a camp fire left burning or someone intentionally starting a fire. They can also be caused electrically, through power lines falling.

The biggest natural cause is lightening, it may strike a tree or bush and because the vegetation is so dry the fire spreads rapidly.

There are some methods to try and stop them or to try and control the damage. Sometimes planes fly overhead and drop large volumes of water, another way is to create a 'buffer zone', this is where the firemen clear an area of vegetation so that the fire cannot continue on its path. And of course there is huge numbers of firemen trying to put out the fires. In 2013, 19 fireman were killed in a wildfire in Arizona, America. Source: www.bbc.com/news

Match these words to their definitions ;

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Evacuate ..... | a. to extend over a large or an increasing area |
| 2. surrounded ..... | b. to make a difference between groups |
| 3. flee ..... | Ex : to disciminate against woman /black people |
| 4. discriminate ..... | c. plant life |
| 5. vegatation ..... | d. encircled / enclosed / all around |
| 6. to spread ..... | e. to leave a dangerous place to somewhere safe |
| | f. to escape / run away quickly |



After reading the text, answer the questions ;

1. How many people have left their homes ? .....
2. Where in America is these forest fires burning ? .....
3. Do the experts think it will be under control in a few days ? .....
4. Name something that people do to start the fire ?.....
5. Sometimes the wildfires start naturally, how ? .....
6. Are there ever any forest fires in your country ?.....

LIVEWORKSHEETS