

# 2017 Fire Season Themes



## **The safety of firefighters and the public is always the highest priority during wildfires.**

- During wildfires, agency administrators and incident managers make choices to minimize risk and focus on areas where firefighters can be the most effective.
- No natural or cultural resource or structure is worth the life of a firefighter.

## **Wildfire behavior is largely contingent upon weather and fuel conditions.**

- The 2016 fire season was below normal for number of reported wildfires (92 percent of the 10-year annual average). There were 67,743 wildfires reported nationally (compared to 68,151 wildfires reported in 2015).
- The number of acres burned was also below normal in 2016 with 5,509,995 acres or 79 percent of the national 10-year average.
- Even though the 2016 fire season was below normal, research continues to show that we can expect to see longer fire seasons, bigger wildfire, and more extreme fire behavior.

## **Partnerships at local, regional, and national levels help us be more effective fire managers.**

- Together, we can be more effective than as individual agencies.
- Projects that reduce vegetation across land management boundaries help create more resilient ecosystems.

## **Homeowners and communities can help firefighters by creating defensible space around homes and structures.**

- Taking individual responsibility to reduce flammable materials around homes and communities before a fire occurs can help keep the public and firefighters safe.
- No human life is worth a home or structure; we will not risk firefighters' lives to save indefensible homes.

## **Unauthorized use of unmanned aircraft, also known as UAS, "drones," or remote controlled model aircraft, in a fire area endangers the lives of pilots and firefighters.**

- Never fly unmanned aircraft over or near fires.
- See No Drone Zone graphics available at [https://www.faa.gov/uas/no\\_drone\\_zone/](https://www.faa.gov/uas/no_drone_zone/)
- See NIFC's No Drone Zone website and PSA at <http://www.nifc.gov/drones/>