



# The Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) Protecting your Forest from Wildfire



Louisiana Sustainable Forestry Initiative

[www.laforestry.com](http://www.laforestry.com)

Reducing wildfire risk for your forestland is imperative, especially when you consider that the occurrence of wildfire in Louisiana is considered “high.” From 2004-2013, an annual average of 1,956 fires burned 20,989 acres of forestland each year in the state. The Louisiana Office of Forestry is the agency responsible for the detection, suppression and prevention of wildfires. But landowners have important ways they can protect their forestland:

- 1) **Prescribed burns:** Reducing hazardous fuels through prescribed burns can also reduce risk to your forestland. Check with your forester or the Louisiana Office of Forestry (225-925-4500) for scheduling a prescribed burn.
- 2) **Determine the risk to your forestland:** Tools found at [www.southernwildfirerisk.com](http://www.southernwildfirerisk.com) can help you gauge the risk for your particular property. You can also go to <http://www.ldaf.state.la.us/> to check out the Daily Fire Danger map that shows current fire risk in your area.
- 3) **Install firebreaks:** Installing firebreaks can halt the spread of wildfires to your property. Construct firebreaks around the perimeter and add interior firebreaks to help contain fires and provide access for fire fighting equipment. Remember, fighting wildfires involves dozers, plows and two-way radios not fire trucks.
- 4) **Work around the edge:** Landowners should work to reduce hazardous fuels along roadways and entrances where you would likely have a problem with arson fires. Mow or brush cut the area and remove scrubby vegetation and other sources of fire fuels.
- 5) **Control access to your property:** You can install gates or other barriers to limit trespassers on your property. Put up signage with a phone number to contact you if anyone sees a problem on your land.
- 6) **Absentee landowners need another pair of eyes:** If you do not live near your forestland and do not visit it often, you should get to know adjacent landowners, your forester, or members of a hunting club that you know to alert you about any problems they see on your land.

## TO REPORT A FOREST FIRE:

Call 1-855-452-5323 available 24 hours a day, 7 days.



*The Louisiana Office of Forestry handles wildland fires. Fires are detected by aircraft OR by calls from the public.*