

CAUSES OF BUSHFIRES IN VICTORIA



Worksheet 37

Causes of bushfires in Victoria's parks and forests

Cause	Number	%
Lightning	201	28
Deliberate	192	27
Unknown	99	14
Campfire	70	10
Agricultural escapes	65	9
Vehicles/machinery	43	6
Miscellaneous	21	3
Cigarettes	10	1
Prescribed burn escapes	7	1
Public utilities (e.g. electrical power lines)	6	1
Total average fires each year	714	100%

These are the average figures for the causes of bushfires in Victoria, measured between July 1996 and June 2006.

Use the table above to help you answer the following questions:

1. How many bushfires start in Victoria's parks and forests each year, on average?
2. What causes the largest number of bushfires in Victoria?
3. Do you think people can stop lightning from causing fires in the bush?
4. Of all the bushfires that happen each year, how many bushfires do you think that people can prevent in a year?
5. Why do you think it is important to teach people about how bushfires are caused?
6. What reasons would you give to a person to explain why they need to be careful with campfires when they are in the bush?

EXTENSION

- Draw a pie chart using the last column (percentages) of the table above to show the causes of bushfires in Victoria.
- Write a short newspaper story to go with your pie chart to describe to newspaper readers what the main causes of bushfires are, and why they need to be safe with fire in the outdoors.
- Pick ONE of the causes of bushfires that people can help prevent. Write a 30 second script for a radio and TV advertisement to help people understand how they can prevent that kind of fire. Perform it for your class.