

Restoring the Environment after Forest Fires

A.

Fighting forest fires and other wildfires means:

- deciding if heavy equipment is needed, or an aircraft is needed, or if fire fighters will use light equipment such as pumps
- getting the necessary people and equipment into an area
- once the staff and equipment are there it will mean clearing a spot
 - for a camp
 - for the helicopters which will be carrying supplies, people, and fuel
 - for landing zones which are used as staging crews for helicopters that fight a fire

B.

Fighting a forest fire can also mean:

- cutting kilometers of fire control roads through the forest
- that there are areas where all kinds of plants has been cleared to create a break to stop the fire
- fire fighters must think about every body of water to have fish, so they work hard to avoid damage to it and its banks.
- they try not to cross bodies of water and if they have to they may put in temporary culverts or build a temporary bridge of logs and brush.
- that it is very important to deal with wildfires quickly so equipment operators and other fire fighting people can get the fire under control. Often there is time to make a plan of how to attack a fire, how to not damage the environment and how to reclaim areas that get disturbed or damaged during fire fighting.

C.

Getting to a fire, setting up camp and all that it brings can open up areas that people would not normally be able to get to.

But once the fire is out, fire lines, landing pads, and campsites will be reclaimed by

- putting back topsoil
- remaking slopes on hills and streams
- preventing erosion by replanting plants