



ARE WILDFIRES GETTING WORSE?



1
00:00:02,268 --> 00:00:04,738
Are wildfires getting worse?

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00:00:06,221 --> 00:00:08,108
NASA.

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00:00:08,108 --> 00:00:09,009
We Asked a NASA Scientist

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00:00:09,009 --> 00:00:10,710
Yes, unfortunately, they are.

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00:00:10,710 --> 00:00:13,909
We're seeing increases in the intensity and the severity,

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00:00:13,909 --> 00:00:18,318
the overall burned area of wildfires and the duration of fire across the fire season.

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00:00:18,351 --> 00:00:21,401
And while fire is a natural part of ecosystems,

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00:00:21,401 --> 00:00:24,991
what's really driving this change is we're seeing
a lot of changes in our climate.

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00:00:25,225 --> 00:00:27,427
We're seeing increases in global temperature

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00:00:27,660 --> 00:00:31,477
as well as more extreme weather events, so longer droughts.

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00:00:31,765 --> 00:00:36,069
And so we have these hot and dry conditions, which makes vegetation,

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00:00:36,069 --> 00:00:39,939
forests and grasses more available to burn because they're drier.

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00:00:40,173 --> 00:00:43,209

And so with these drier conditions and these drier fuels,

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00:00:43,443 --> 00:00:45,078

we're likely to see more fires.

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00:00:45,078 --> 00:00:48,181

And this is happening in many locations all across the world.

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00:00:48,248 --> 00:00:52,152

This can be really detrimental to the ecosystem, but also to human health,

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00:00:52,152 --> 00:00:56,056

where we're seeing people going to the hospital with respiratory issues

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00:00:56,122 --> 00:00:59,692

and smoke can just travel many thousands of miles with these fires.

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00:01:00,193 --> 00:01:01,961

How can we help? What can we do?

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00:01:01,961 --> 00:01:06,792

One thing that I find really hopeful is that NASA continues to study wildfires around the globe.

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00:01:07,067 --> 00:01:09,836

We have people going out on the land to make measurements.

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00:01:09,869 --> 00:01:12,939

We have airborne campaigns that fly around to better understand

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00:01:13,306 --> 00:01:17,710

wildfires from the air, how it's impacting smoke, where wildfires are burning.

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00:01:17,710 --> 00:01:21,047

And then, of course, we have satellite imagery, which gives us a global picture

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00:01:21,047 --> 00:01:23,750

of wildfires all around the world all the time.

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00:01:24,084 --> 00:01:26,119

So are wildfires getting worse?

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00:01:26,119 --> 00:01:27,387

Yes, they are.

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00:01:27,387 --> 00:01:29,856

But there are ways that we can all think about this together.

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00:01:30,000 --> 00:01:34,961

And I think just learning about these issues and being able to share that with other members in our community

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00:01:35,161 --> 00:01:38,898

is a way we can all go forward and think
about climate change and wildfires.