

For Release  
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Forest fires and weather! Weather has considerable to do with forest fires -- both in conditioning the forest for ready fire starting and igniting. A prolonged spell, say two weeks, without rain is a good start, the other conditions being high winds, low relative humidity, clear weather and temperatures above normal. A combination of all these elements is excellent for drying out the duff, which is the half-decayed vegetable matter on the forest floor. Principal agents in starting forest fires are recreationists, incendiaries and lightning. Lightning in one state was responsible for six per cent. of the fires and one storm was responsible for 60 fires -- probably the worst ignition record. -----