



WITHOUT WARNING!

WILDFIRE

PAUL TOBIN
DAVID HAHN

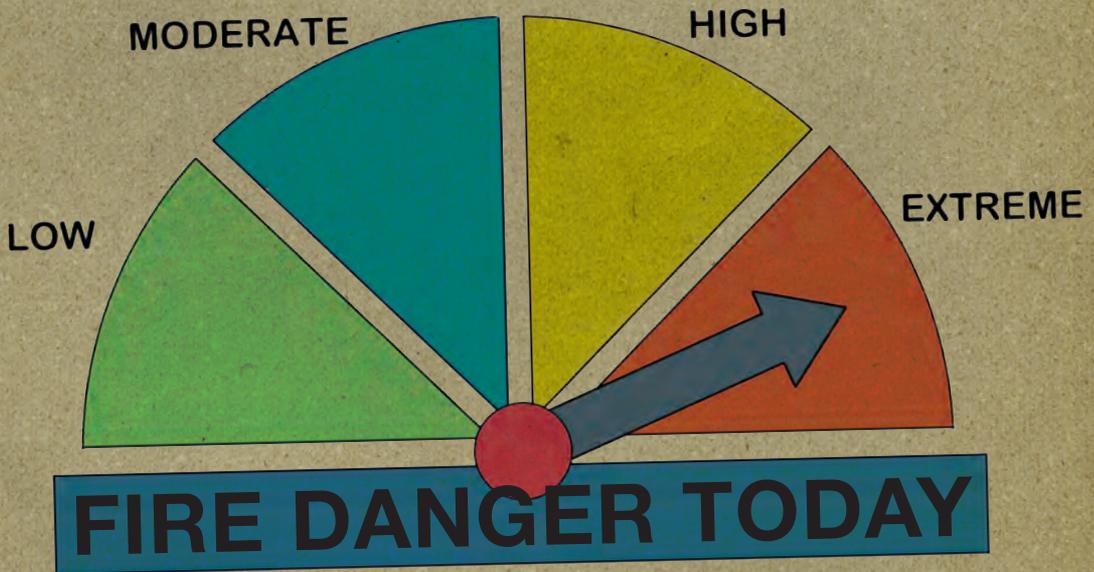


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WILDFIRE

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I'M SORE FROM THE HIKE, BUT THRILLED BY THE VIEW.



WHAT AN EPIC HIKE. CAN WE STAY HERE FOREVER?

THE WAY MY MUSCLES FEEL, THAT MIGHT JUST BE THE CASE.

HUH?

WILDERNESS BOUNDARY

NO FIRES



I'M SAYING MY MUSCLES ARE ON FIRE.

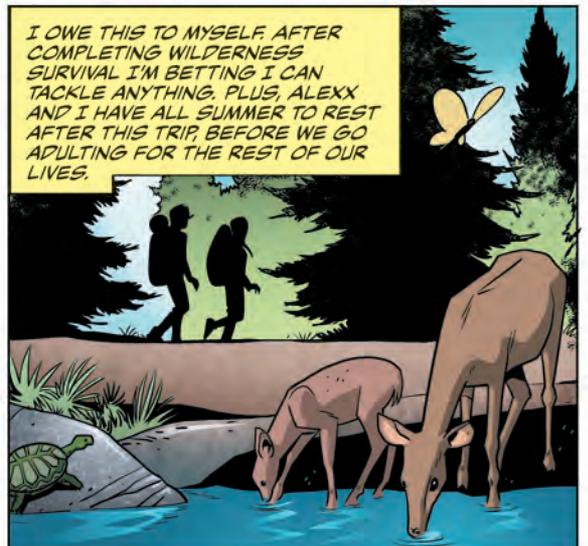
WILDERNESS BOUNDARY

point
point
point

NO FIRES



THIS IS THE FIRST OF FIVE LONG DAYS OF BACKPACKING AND CAMPING WITH MY BEST FRIEND, ALEX. I'M SO EXCITED!



I OWE THIS TO MYSELF. AFTER COMPLETING WILDERNESS SURVIVAL I'M BETTING I CAN TACKLE ANYTHING. PLUS, ALEX AND I HAVE ALL SUMMER TO REST AFTER THIS TRIP, BEFORE WE GO ADULTING FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES.



A RED FLAG WARNING IS IN EFFECT THAT WILL BRING HOT, DRY, AND STRONG EAST WINDS OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS.



HI. DIDN'T MEAN TO DISTURB YOUR DOG. JUST HIKING THROUGH.

HELLO! SORRY ABOUT THE DOG. HIS NAME IS SILENCE. THE NAME IS, UH, KINDA IRONIC.

BARK
BARK
BARK

ON THE FIRST AFTERNOON WE MEET A COUPLE OF CAMPERs, ESTELLE, JAKE, AND THEIR DOG. I CAN'T HELP BUT NOTICE SOME IRRESPONSIBLE THINGS ABOUT THEIR CAMPSITE. WITHOUT BEING RUDE (I HOPE) I MENTIONED A FEW TIPS AND CAUTIONED THEM ABOUT THEIR FIRE, BUT JAKE SAID THEY'D BEEN CAMPING HERE FOR YEARS WITH NO PROBLEMS.



THEY SEEMED NICE. I HOPE THEY LISTENED TO YOU AND THAT WEATHER ALERT. THE WEATHER SOUNDS SCARY.

IT DOES. I KEEP CHECKING THE ACTIVE ALERTS. THERE'S AN URGENT FIRE WEATHER MESSAGE.

EXTREMELY DRY CONDITIONS MIXED WITH HIGH WINDS? **BAD NEWS.**



UH-HUH. SPEAKING OF BAD NEWS, MEGHAN, WHAT DID YOU THINK OF THAT CAMPFIRE OF THEIRS? IT'S GOT ME REALLY WORRIED NOW.

NOT GREAT, RIGHT? I MENTIONED IT TO ESTELLE, AND SHE SAID THEY'D BE SURE TO TAKE CARE OF IT.

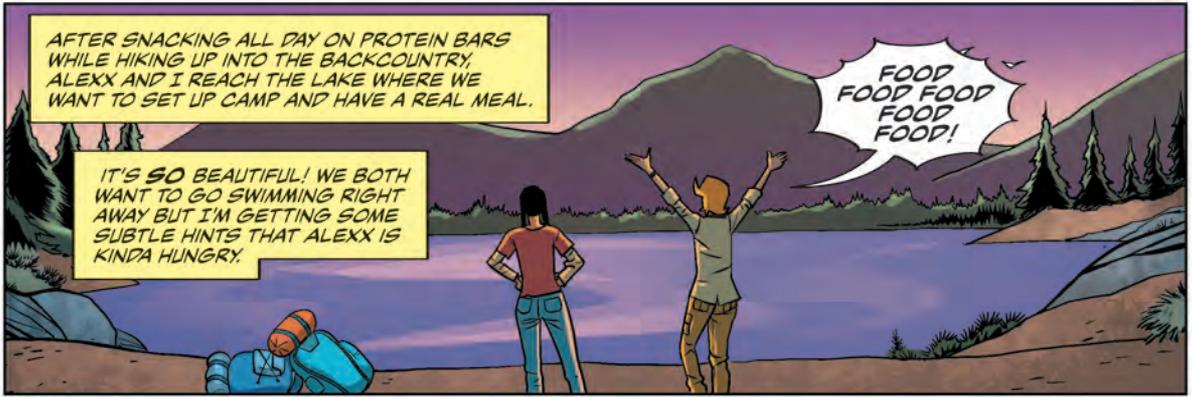
I REALLY HOPE THEY DO PUT IT OUT.



Whoosh



SPARK



AFTER SNACKING ALL DAY ON PROTEIN BARS WHILE HIKING UP INTO THE BACKCOUNTRY, ALEXX AND I REACH THE LAKE WHERE WE WANT TO SET UP CAMP AND HAVE A REAL MEAL.

FOOD
FOOD FOOD
FOOD FOOD
FOOD!

IT'S *SO* BEAUTIFUL! WE BOTH WANT TO GO SWIMMING RIGHT AWAY BUT I'M GETTING SOME SUBTLE HINTS THAT ALEXX IS KINDA HUNGRY.



YOU PACKED YOUR CAMP STOVE RIGHT?

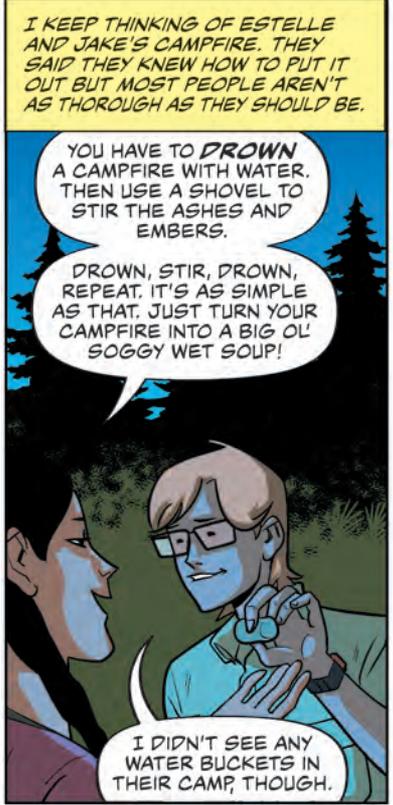
OF COURSE! IT'S SAFER THAN A CAMPFIRE AND IT STARTS RIGHT UP WITH NO FUSS OR HASSLE. PLUS, LESS DANGER OF YOU STARVING THIS WAY.



IT'S A PERFECT DARK SKY FOR STARGAZING. ALEXX AND I TALK ABOUT HOW WE SHOULD HAVE BROUGHT ALEXX'S DACHSHUND, HILDA, WHICH IS COMPLETELY WRONG BUT ALSO FUN TO THINK ABOUT.

HER LEGS ARE LIKE, TWO INCHES LONG. CAN YOU JUST PICTURE HER GETTING STUCK TRYING TO LEAP OVER A LOG? HER LITTLE FEET DANGLING OVER BOTH SIDES?

OH MY GOSH. ADORABLE! NEXT TIME FOR SURE!



I KEEP THINKING OF ESTELLE AND JAKE'S CAMPFIRE. THEY SAID THEY KNEW HOW TO PUT IT OUT BUT MOST PEOPLE AREN'T AS THOROUGH AS THEY SHOULD BE.

YOU HAVE TO **DROWN** A CAMPFIRE WITH WATER. THEN USE A SHOVEL TO STIR THE ASHES AND EMBERS.

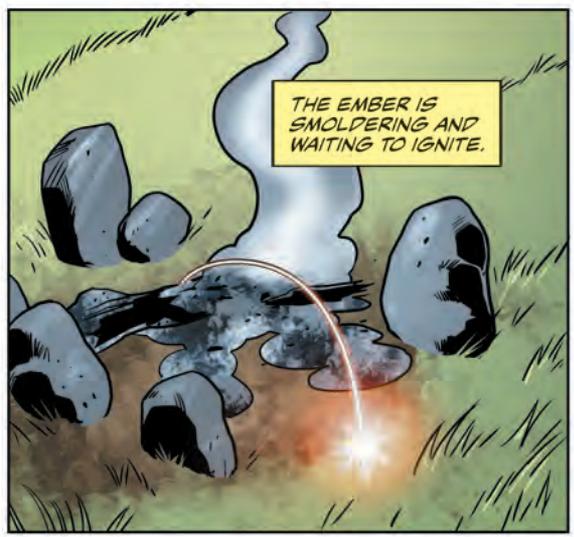
DROWN, STIR, DROWN, REPEAT. IT'S AS SIMPLE AS THAT. JUST TURN YOUR CAMPFIRE INTO A BIG OL' SOGGY WET SOUP!

I DIDN'T SEE ANY WATER BUCKETS IN THEIR CAMP, THOUGH.



THE NEXT MORNING...

THEY THOUGHT IT WAS OUT. BUT IT WASN'T.



THE EMBER IS SMOLDERING AND WAITING TO IGNITE.





FIRST, WE DITCH ALL THE NON-ESSENTIALS IN OUR BACKPACKS. RIGHT NOW, THEY'RE ONLY SLOWING US DOWN.

HEAD DOWNHILL AS FAST AS WE CAN! AND MOVE INTO THE WIND!

WE NEED TO KEEP AN EYE ON THAT COLUMN OF SMOKE AND MAKE SURE IT'S NOT MOVING OUR WAY.



I HOPE SO. I HAVE TO SAY, NOW I'M **GLAD** HILDA ISN'T WITH US.

RIGHT? DACHSHUNDS ARE NOT KNOWN FOR THEIR SPEED.

HAVING LEARNED HOW TO REACT IS HELPING ME KEEP CALM, AND THAT'S IMPORTANT. LOSE YOUR HEAD IN AN EMERGENCY, AND IT CAN CAUSE EVEN WORSE PROBLEMS.



EMBERS, CARRIED BY THE WINDS, CROSS THE WIDE RIVER AND START NEW FIRES.



WE MOVE AS FAST AS WE CAN. SEVERAL TIMES, SQUIRRELS AND OTHER ANIMALS RACE PAST US, RUNNING FROM THE FIRE. BUT SOME ARE FROZEN AND PANICKED, NOT KNOWING WHAT TO DO.



IT'S NOT JUST TREES WE'RE LOSING--IT'S EVERYTHING THAT LIVES HERE.



HUH?

SKRSHHH



AHH!

THUMP THUD



AH, WHAT THE HECK? THAT DEER CAME OUT OF NOWHERE!

IT SERIOUSLY DID, AND YOUR HAND LOOKS SERIOUSLY BROKEN.



WOW! DON'T WORRY, I KEPT THE MEDICAL SUPPLIES WHEN WE WERE DITCHING EVERYTHING ELSE.

I CAN'T TRULY FIX THIS RIGHT NOW, BUT IT'S ENOUGH TO KEEP MOVING.



HOW'S THE HAND?

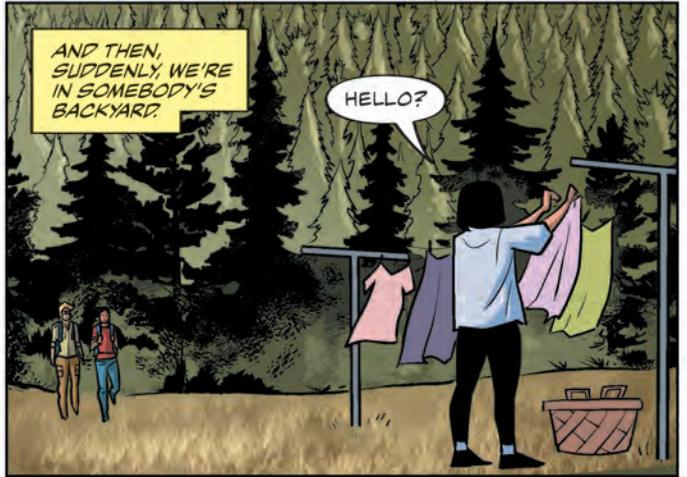
IT'S SWELLING AND THROBING. HURTS PRETTY BAD, BUT AT LEAST IT'S NOT MY LEG. I'M GOOD TO KEEP MOVING.



I CAN SEE GLIMPSES OF ROOFTOPS AND FENCES LOWER DOWN THE MOUNTAIN. CIVILIZATION! I BET IT'S DESERTED, THOUGH.

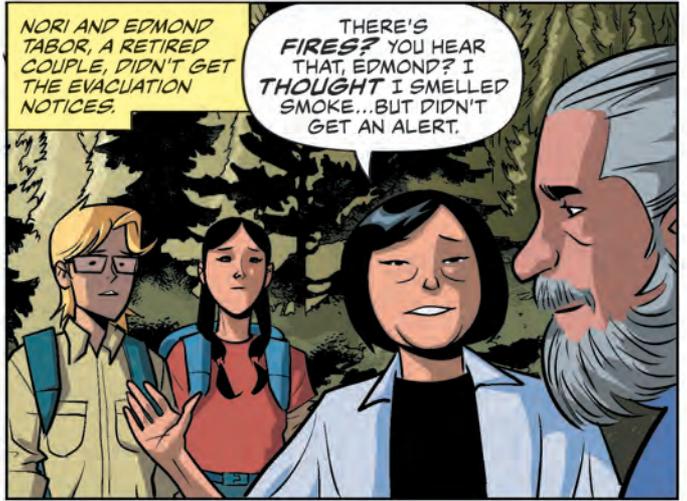
THIS IS SCARY. I NEVER KNEW A FOREST FIRE WAS SO LOUD. IT'S LIKE A TRAIN COMING AT US.

WE'LL BE FINE. WE JUST NEED TO KEEP MOVING.



AND THEN, SUDDENLY, WE'RE IN SOMEBODY'S BACKYARD.

HELLO?



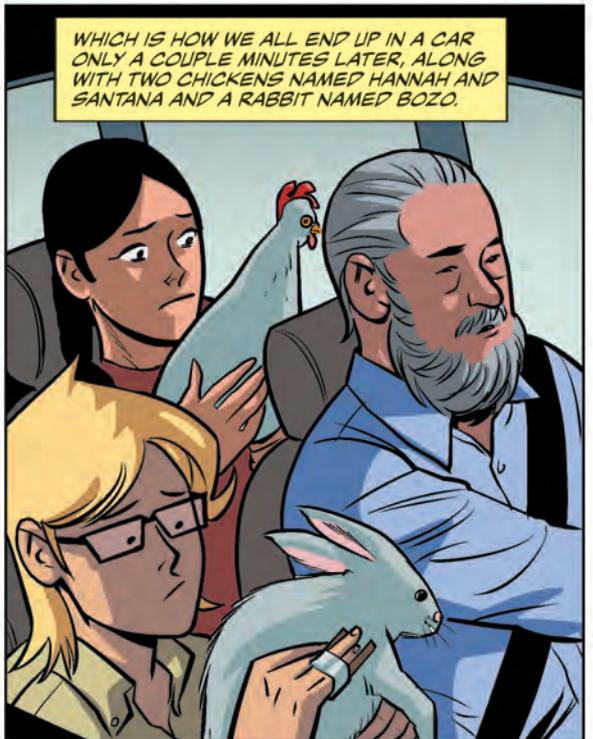
NORI AND EDMOND TABOR, A RETIRED COUPLE, DIDN'T GET THE EVACUATION NOTICES.

THERE'S FIRES? YOU HEAR THAT, EDMOND? I THOUGHT I SMELLED SMOKE...BUT DIDN'T GET AN ALERT.



LEVEL THREE ALREADY, YOU SAY?

GOODNESS, WHAT DO WE GRAB FIRST?

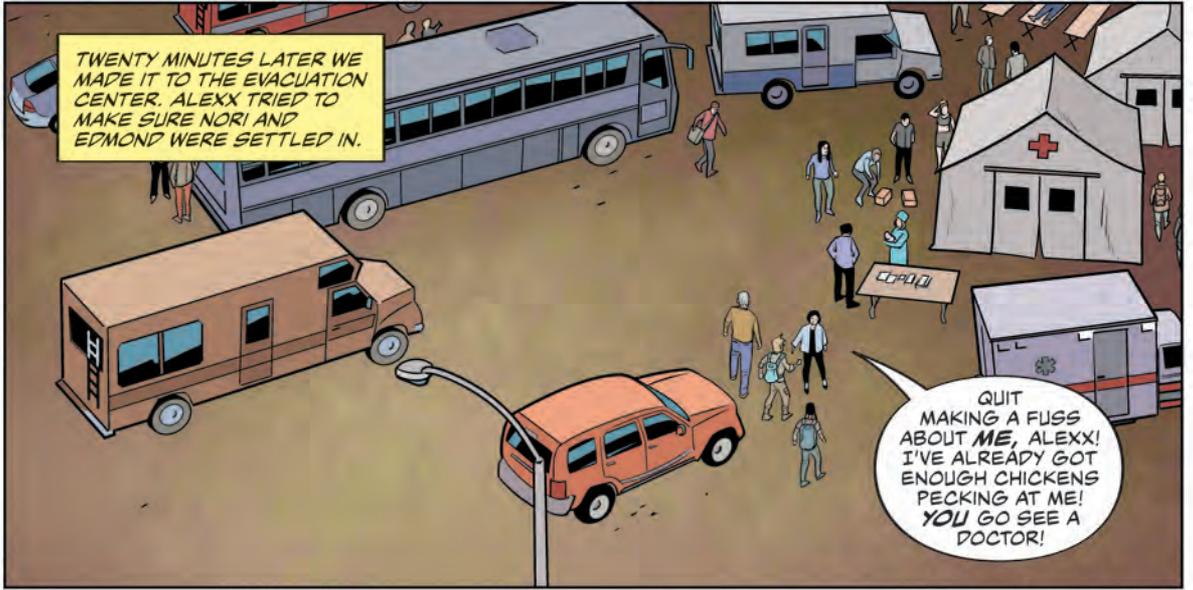


WHICH IS HOW WE ALL END UP IN A CAR ONLY A COUPLE MINUTES LATER, ALONG WITH TWO CHICKENS NAMED HANNAH AND SANTANA AND A RABBIT NAMED BOZO.



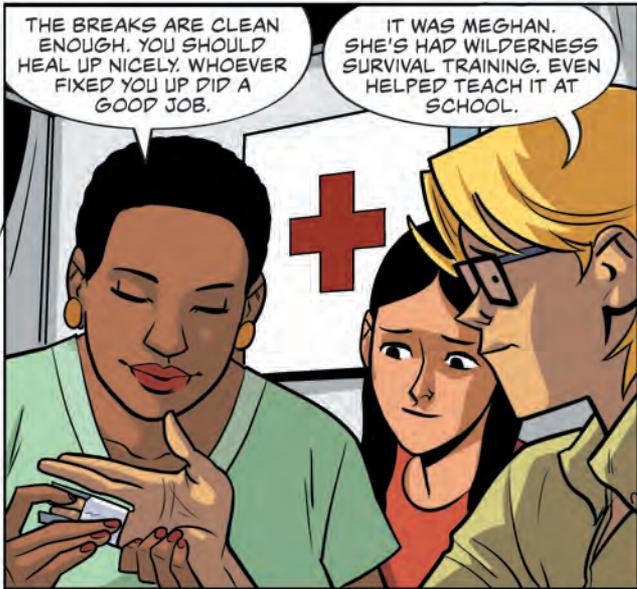
THE WHOLE SKY IS EERIE AS WE DRIVE AWAY. IT'S LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A DREAM. THE FIRE STILL FEELS LIKE IT'S CHASING US. WE SEE A FIRE CREW GOING THE OTHER WAY, HEADING TOWARD THE FIRES, LIKE A KNIGHT CHASING AFTER AN ANGRY DRAGON.





TWENTY MINUTES LATER WE MADE IT TO THE EVACUATION CENTER. ALEX TRIED TO MAKE SURE NORI AND EDMOND WERE SETTLED IN.

QUIT MAKING A FUSS ABOUT ME, ALEX! I'VE ALREADY GOT ENOUGH CHICKENS PECKING AT ME! YOU GO SEE A DOCTOR!



THE BREAKS ARE CLEAN ENOUGH. YOU SHOULD HEAL UP NICELY. WHOEVER FIXED YOU UP DID A GOOD JOB.

IT WAS MEGHAN. SHE'S HAD WILDERNESS SURVIVAL TRAINING. EVEN HELPED TEACH IT AT SCHOOL.



WELL, EXCELLENT WORK, THEN, MEGHAN.

NOT SURE I'D HAVE DONE ANY BETTER IF I'D BEEN THE ONE WITH A WILDFIRE IN MY EMERGENCY ROOM.

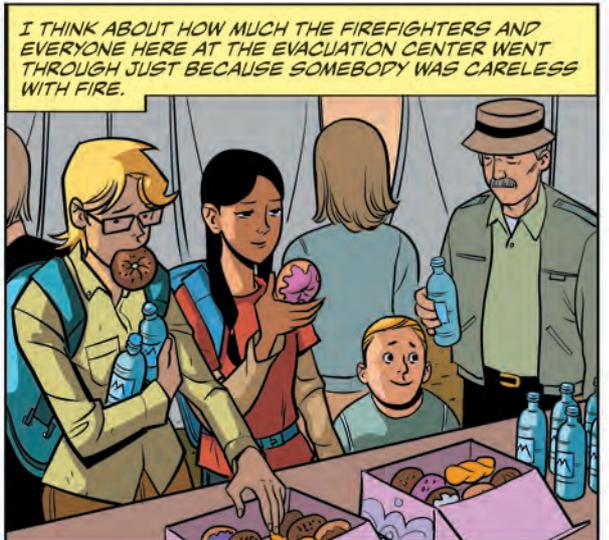
IT'S NOT SOMETHING I'D RECOMMEND.



I GUESS OUR BACKPACKING TRIP WILL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL NEXT SUMMER. I WANT A REDO.

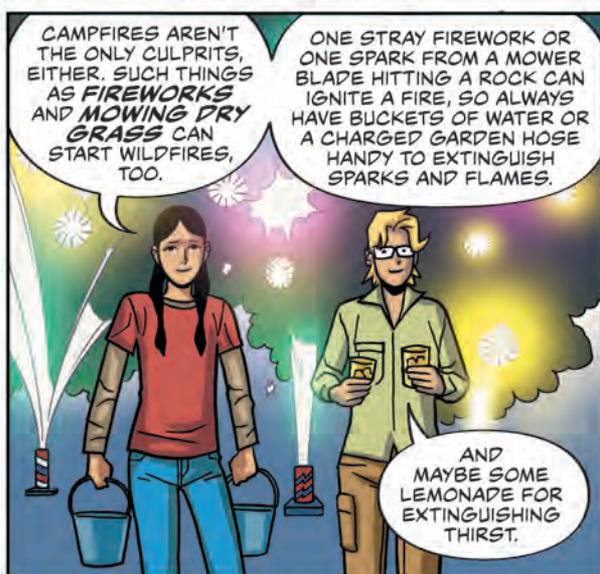
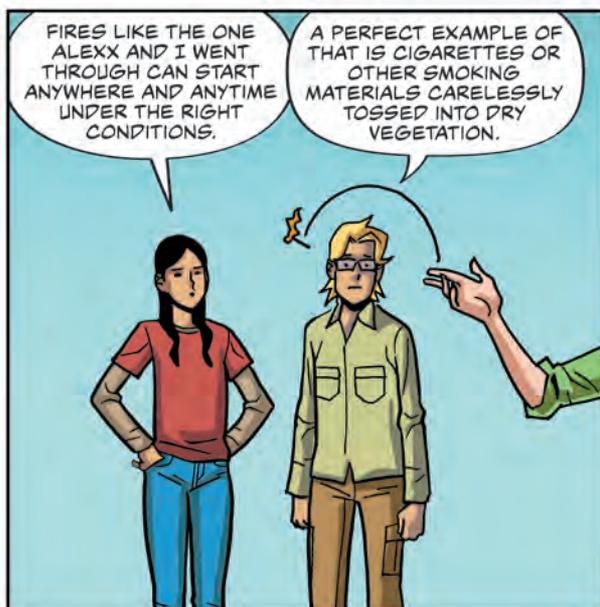
PPFFT. GIVE ME A COUPLE WEEKS. I'LL TOTALLY REBOUND.

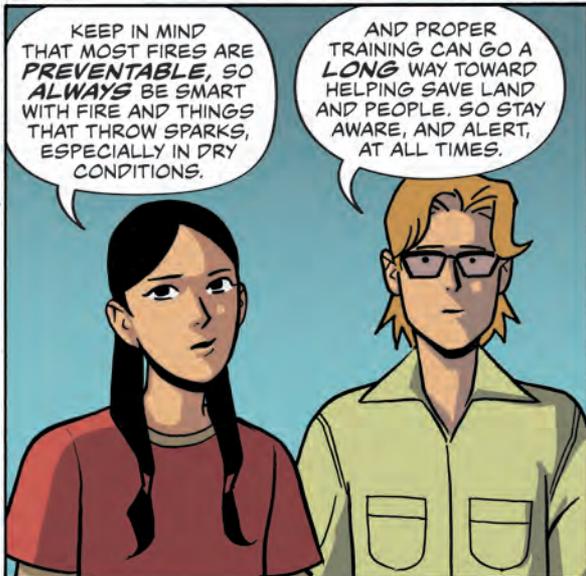
I GUESS... UH, I GUESS IT'LL TAKE LONGER FOR THE FOREST, THOUGH.



I THINK ABOUT HOW MUCH THE FIREFIGHTERS AND EVERYONE HERE AT THE EVACUATION CENTER WENT THROUGH JUST BECAUSE SOMEBODY WAS CARELESS WITH FIRE.







END



WILDFIRE PREVENTION

It's everyone's responsibility to help prevent human-caused wildfires. You can do so many things to help keep our scenic landscapes and communities green and safe. The first step to prevention is awareness—so contact your local fire agency, air authority, or forestry office for information on current fire restrictions.

- Practice campfire safety—never leave a campfire unattended and extinguish your campfire completely before going to bed or leaving the campsite. Always have water and a shovel onsite.
- Keep vehicles on established roads and trails—this includes ATVs, cars, and motorcycles. ATVs can easily cast sparks or overheat so be sure to properly check and maintain your vehicle and spark arrestor.
- Backyard burning is a leading cause of wildfires—always have fire tools on site and stay by your burn pile. Never use gasoline, and make sure your burn pile is completely out (burn piles can retain heat for several weeks and rekindle when the weather warms and winds begin to blow).
- Fireworks—be prepared; be safe; be responsible; be aware. Soak used fireworks in a bucket of water and dispose of them properly. Use fireworks only in legally permitted areas—on pavement at home, away from structures, vehicles, and flammable vegetation.

For more information on how you can help prevent wildfires visit:
www.keeporegongreen.org www.smokeybear.com

EVACUATION PLANNING

It is important to have a plan in place for emergency evacuations. Preparing now can help save your family's lives.

- Prepare an emergency kit that you can grab on the go and keep an extra kit in your car.
- Draw a home escape plan and share with it with everyone in your home.
- Practice the plan.
- Have an evacuation plan for pets and livestock.
- Have an outside meeting place located at a safe distance.
- Teach children how to escape on their own.



READY. SET. GO.

During a wildfire your local law enforcement agency orders evacuations. If you feel threatened by a wildfire, do not wait for an official evacuation order.

There are three levels of evacuation:

- LEVEL 1—Ready: Prepare and Monitor. Pack your valuables.
- LEVEL 2—Set: Be set to evacuate at a moment's notice.
- LEVEL 3—Go: Leave immediately.

If you are advised to evacuate, do so immediately. Take your emergency supply kit, lock your home, and choose a route away from the fire hazard. Watch for changes in the speed and direction of the fire and smoke. Tell someone when you left and where you are going.

If you see a wildfire and haven't received evacuation orders call 911. Don't assume that it has already been reported. Stay calm, describe the location of the fire, speak slowly and clearly, and answer any questions asked by the dispatcher.

For more information and resources please visit:

www.keeporegongreen.org

wildfire.oregon.gov

www.firewise.org

www.ready.gov/wildfires

www.oregon.gov/odf/Pages/index.aspx

www.oregon.gov/oem/Pages/default.aspx

www.clackamas.edu

