

ENVIRONMENTAL  
**DISASTERS**

# Los Alamos

Wildfires



# Los Alamos Wildfires Wildfires Environmental Disasters Milwaukee Wis

**Tom Ribe**



## **Los Alamos Wildfires Wildfires Environmental Disasters Milwaukee Wis:**

**Los Alamos Wildfires** Nichol Bryan, 2003-07 The massive wildfire racing down a mountain toward a nuclear research center in New Mexico wasn't caused by carelessness. It was deliberately set by the U.S. National Park Service on May 4, 2000 as a controlled burn to prevent future forest fires. Instead, it quickly blazed out of control, destroying acres of forests, consuming homes, and causing the evacuation of Los Alamos and other cities. Learn how firefighters worked to contain this environmental disaster and see why fire control remains a controversial practice. Book jacket [Facts on File World News Digest Yearbook](#), 2000 **Library Journal** Melvil Dewey, Richard Rogers Bowker, L. Pylodet, Charles Ammi Cutter, Bertine Emma Weston, Karl Brown, Helen E. Wessells, 2007 Includes beginning Sept 15, 1954 and on the 15th of each month Sept-May a special section. School library journal. ISSN 0000-0035 called Junior Libraries, 1954-May 1961. Also issued separately.

*Who's Who in America* Marquis Who's Who, Inc., 2002 *Inferno by Committee* Tom Ribe, 2010-05-12 Tom Ribe's clear, scrupulous and thorough account of the Los Alamos Bandelier fire of 2000 is a white-knuckle narrative yet meticulously accurate. Roger G. Kennedy, former Director of U.S. National Park Service, Director Emeritus of the National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, and author of *Wildfire and Americans*, *Inferno by Committee* tells the story of America's worst prescribed fire disaster: the Cerro Grande Fire of 2000, which burned 250 homes in Los Alamos, New Mexico. The fire started with a National Park Service prescribed fire that went out of control and ended up burning 42,000 acres of the Santa Fe National Forest. A thorough review of the investigations of the fire and the policy changes that resulted from this seminal event in American fire history are also an integral part of this examination. Prescribing fire on the landscape involves risk. Sometimes, as with the Cerro Grande Fire, the risk taken results in disaster. For land managers, there really is no option but to prescribe fire and take risk to restore fire to a landscape where fire is native and necessary for the survival of biological systems. Cerro Grande showed us both the consequences of taking a risk with fire and, more dramatically, the consequences of avoiding that risk. **Inferno by Committee** Tom Ribe, 2010 Tom Ribe's clear, scrupulous and thorough account of the Los Alamos Bandelier fire of 2000 is a white-knuckle narrative yet meticulously accurate. Roger G. Kennedy, former Director of U.S. National Park Service, Director Emeritus of the National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, and author of *Wildfire and Americans*, *Inferno by Committee* tells the story of America's worst prescribed fire disaster: the Cerro Grande Fire of 2000, which burned 250 homes in Los Alamos, New Mexico. The fire started with a National Park Service prescribed fire that went out of control and ended up burning 42,000 acres of the Santa Fe National Forest. A thorough review of the investigations of the fire and the policy changes that resulted from this seminal event in American fire history are also an integral part of this examination. Prescribing fire on the landscape involves risk. Sometimes, as with the Cerro Grande Fire, the risk taken results in disaster. For land managers, there really is no option but to prescribe fire and take risk to restore fire to a landscape where fire is native and necessary for the survival of biological systems. Cerro Grande showed us both the

consequences of taking a risk with fire and more dramatically the consequences of avoiding that risk      **Fire Management**  
Barry Thomas Hill,2000      **Fire management lessons learned from the Cerro Grande (Los Alamos) fire** ,      *Fire*  
*Management: Lessons Learned From the Cerro Grande (Los Alamos) Fire and Actions Needed to Reduce Fire Risks* ,2000 We  
are here today to discuss two related issues lessons learned from the recent Cerro Grande fire and on a broader note actions  
needed to mitigate current hazardous forest conditions in the interior West Only a few months ago the Los Alamos fire now  
officially known as the Cerro Grande fire caused hundreds of families in Los Alamos New Mexico to lose their homes and  
more than 18 000 residents of the state to be evacuated Over 1 000 fire fighters were required to bring the fire under control  
Estimates have placed total damages at about 1 billion This tragedy was the result of a prescribed fire ignited by officials of  
the National Park Service Ironically the fire was ignited in an effort to reduce some of the vegetative buildup in a forested  
area of Bandelier National Monument and thus help prevent the very kind of event that occurred The plan was to burn up to  
900 acres in the end about 48 000 acres were burned The policy supporting the use of prescribed or controlled burns as a  
forest management tool has been in place for some time According to analyses by federal land management agencies the use  
of prescribed burns has been and will continue to be a critical component of forest management if the nation wants to reduce  
the risk of catastrophic wildfires particularly in the interior West The need to reduce these risks has never been more obvious  
as it as at this time While the Cerro Grande fire demonstrated this as events have unfolded it was only the beginning of what  
has turned out to be one of the worst wildfire seasons in history with over 4 million acres already burned and dozens of fires  
still burning in many western states In reviewing the events surrounding the Cerro Grande fire we examined how well the  
policy was implemented and what if any lessons can be learned to prevent future tragedies like it      Environment  
Assessment for the Wildfire Hazard Reduction and Forest Health Improvement Program at Los Alamos National Laboratory,  
Los Alamos, New Mexico United States. Department of Energy. Los Alamos Area Office,2000

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