

BUSH FIRES IN AUSTRALIA

In Eastern Australia vast bush fires sweep through valuable plantations of young timber after a prolonged dry spell had made grass and scrub tinder dry. Flames engulf wooden houses in their path and there's not much owners can do to save them. Volunteer fire-fighters must bring water with them to tackle the sea of fire.

Scores of homes have been destroyed and many people burned to death. In the past few months over five million pounds damage has been done by these fires, started often by a cigarette thoughtlessly thrown into the dry grass ... and somewhere perhaps miles away the fruits of a life of hard work become a blackened ruin.

Rich pasture lands become vast fields of ash, littered with burned carcasses.

This was a home a few hours ago ... now they must start to build again ... hundreds of Australian pioneers conquered the hazards of nature only to be robbed by man's carelessness.