



CLEAN STEM *FLASH*

Addressing Wildfire: The 2022 Marshall Fires and Beyond

A Timely Climate and Energy E-Learning Series to Use and Share
January 31, 2022

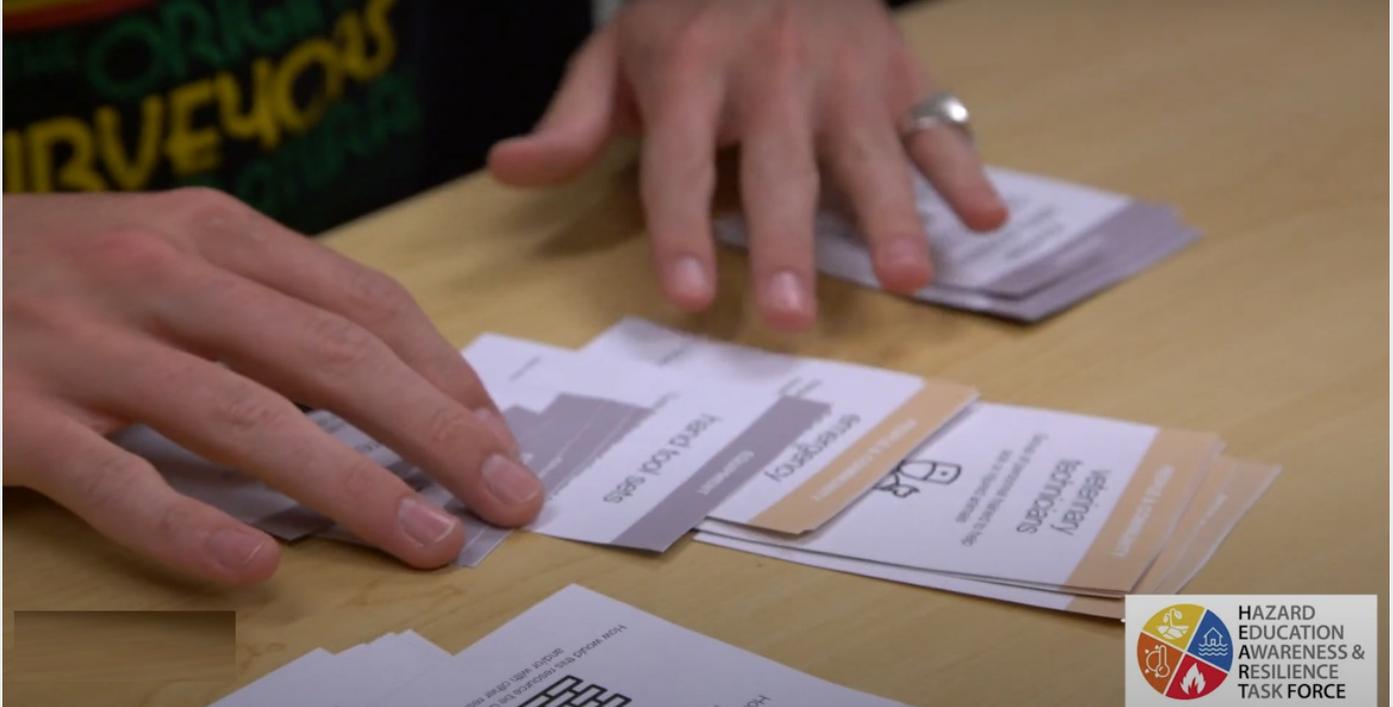
- HEART Force Wildfire Game
- Video: Wildfires out West
- News: What the Marshall Fire can teach us about future climate catastrophes

Greetings!

The past year has been full of challenges for many, not the least of which are wildfires that have caused harm in the Western U.S. At the University of Colorado Boulder where CLEAN is hosted, many staff, students, and faculty were evacuated as a result of January's Marshall fire. Upon close reflection, the CLEAN team feels that it is more important than ever to elevate conversations about climate change and natural disasters, and to support action as a means of improving mental health during this time of increased stress and trauma. We are highlighting resources to help educators deal with these complex subjects, and to help begin important conversations about resilience. Please explore the CLEAN Collection and utilize the resources below to promote hazard education and awareness.

[Explore the
Collection](#)

CLEAN Resource Feature: Activity



Activity: HEART Force Wildfire Game

Audience: Middle School, High School

This activity explores how individuals can prepare for and mitigate the effects of wildfire on their community, and emphasizes the role of youth in an effective wildfire response. In this interactive game, students solve the challenges that their community faces during the course of a wildfire event by using available individual and community resources. Students work in three zone response teams to determine the responses they will take in each round as the wildfire situation evolves. The HEART Force curriculum also includes an action component, which can support students in dealing with anxiety or grief related to wildfires.

HEART Force Wildfire Game was created by the Hazard Education, Awareness, and Resilience Task Force (HEART Force), which is a collaborative project implemented by the NOAA Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES) and NOAA's Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (RISA) partner Western Water Assessment.

**Learn
More**

CLEAN Resource Feature: Video



[Video: Wildfires out West](#)

Audience: Middle School, High School, Informal

This video from ClimateCentral discusses the increase of wildfires in the American West since 2006. The relationships among rainfall, drought, vegetation type, and the severity and location of wildfires are reviewed, as well as the role of satellites in identifying wildfire location and vegetation profile. The video also looks at the way climate conditions can affect vegetation in the West, and what influence this has on wildfires. Ultimately, it shows that drought and rainfall can have very different wildfire outcomes, depending on vegetation type, extent, and location.

[Learn More](#)

In the News:

[What the Marshall Fire can teach us about future climate catastrophes](#)



CU Boulder: What the Marshall Fire can teach us about future climate catastrophes

"Nearly one month after the Marshall Fire became the most destructive and one of the most unique wildfires in Colorado history, CU Boulder researchers from across campus—many of them personally affected by the fire—have pivoted and applied their expertise to the aftermath, hoping to learn from a tragedy in their own backyard and help prepare the country for the next “climate fire.”

'What makes this fire really unique is that it happened in a community that is full of researchers that study this exact topic,' said Natasha Stavros, director of the Earth Lab Analytics Hub at the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES) at CU Boulder. 'We are going to have measurements unlike anywhere else.'"

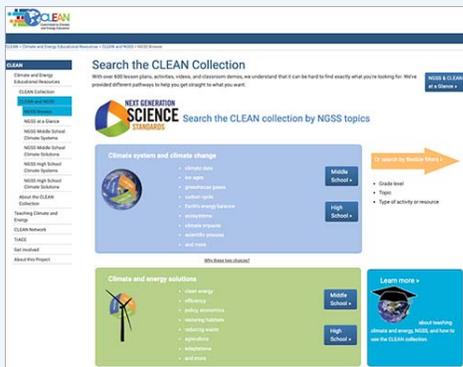
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Other CLEAN Resources



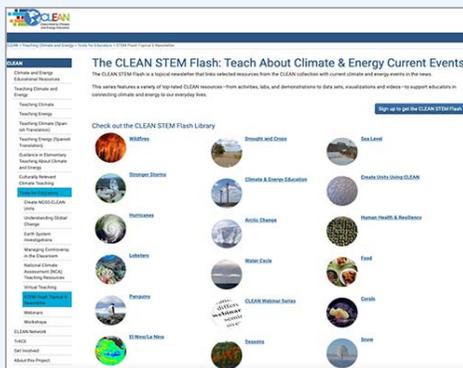
Accurate education about climate and energy topics has never been more important, and it can be challenging to locate reliable, vetted educational materials to use in your classroom.

[Explore the CLEAN collection of climate & energy learning resources](#)



CLEAN supports teaching and learning about climate and energy with 700+ free peer-reviewed, scientifically accurate, and classroom-ready resources.

[Browse the CLEAN collection by NGSS topics](#)



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[Check out the CLEAN STEM Flash Library of past issues](#)



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CLEAN is funded by grants from the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#) (NA12OAR4310143, NA12OAR4310142), the [National Science Foundation](#) (DUE-0938051, DUE-0938020, DUE-0937941) and the [Department of Energy](#).

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