

*Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians
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Oh the Dog Days of Summer!



Summer came on in a hurry this year. This is the time of year for backyard parties and BBQs and spending time with family and friends something we missed in 2020. With the sudden surge in temperatures folks are scrambling for their fans and air conditioners trying to keep cool. This means we need electricity. This time is as good as any to talk about extension cord safety.

We often think of electricity as this magic thing that makes our lives easier but electricity used carelessly can cause property damage, injury and even death. Electric cords are part of our everyday lives that we don't think much about them. Some of the hazards associated with electric cords include: fire - electrical shock - electrical burns and tripping.

To stay safe - choose the right extension cord for the job.

- Only use extension cords with labels saying that they have been tested and approved by an independent laboratory (e.g. Underwriters' Laboratories (UL))
- Extension cords are considered **temporary** wiring and are intended for only temporary use.
- The proper extension cord will depend on where it will be used and how long it needs to be.
 - Don't use indoor cords outside.
 - Don't plug one cord into another to make it longer - this could start a fire. Use a cord of the proper length.
- The gauge and length of the cord tell you the maximum wattage of the equipment the cord can power.
 - Check the cord label to determine length and gauge.
 - The smaller the gauge the larger the wattage (e.g. a 12 gauge can handle higher wattage equipment than a 16 gauge)
 - The longer the cord, the less current it can carry. A 20' cord can power higher wattage equipment than a 50' cord.
 - If you plan to use an extension cord to power more than one item, you must choose a cord that will handle the combined wattage of all the equipment.

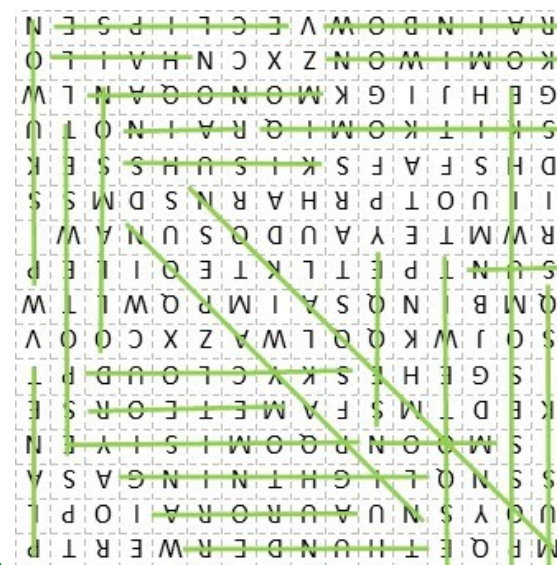
Continued page 2



*Enjoy summer with family
and friends*



Word Search Answers



Natural Resources

(207)532-4273

1-800-564-8524 (ME)

1-800-545-8524

Fax 207-532-6883

Environmental Planning

Sharri Venno - ext. 215

Natural Resources

Matthew Edberg - ext. 220

Water Resources

Rhonda Smart - ext. 212

Sam St. John - ext. 221

Angie Reed

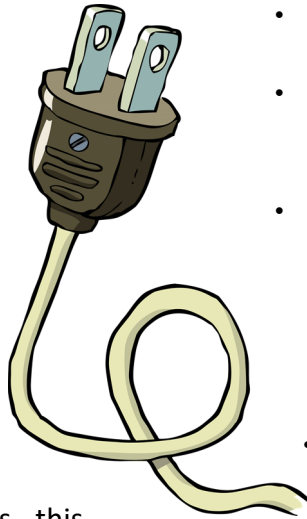
Natural Resources

Real Estate Director

Sue Young - ext. 202

Dog Days of Summer (continued)

- Use extension cords safely.
 - Inspect the cords carefully each time you use them to make sure the plug and cord are in good condition.
 - Insert the cord completely into the outlet to reduce risk of overheating.
 - Plug cords into GFCI (ground-fault circuit interrupter) outlets when using on wet or damp areas.
 - Make sure equipment is turned OFF before plugging it into an extension cord.
 - Don't run cords across floors or doorways where they can be damaged or can create tripping hazards.
 - Don't run cords under carpets or rugs - this can cause them to overheat and start a fire.
 - Don't attach cords to walls or floors with nails or staples - this can expose wires, damage insulation or cause an electrical shock or fire.
 - **Always** unplug extension cords when not in use.



- To prevent damage and extend the life of your outdoor extension cords, be sure to store them inside when not in use.
- Take appropriate steps to deal with damaged or effective extension cords.
- Remember normal wear and tear can damage extension cords and make them dangerous.
- **Damaged cords should be repaired by qualified persons only.**
 - Don't tried to patch or repair them yourself.
 - Duct tape or electrical tape **IS NOT** a safe repair!
- Air Conditioners and space heaters should **NOT** be plugged into extension cords or power strips. They should be plugged directly into the wall.

For more information check out
www.statefarm.com/simple-insights>residence
www.ul.com



Natural Resources Department Webpage

Just in case you haven't checked out the natural resources department's website recently, we've been adding games and videos to our site.

- WWF Free Rivers app www.worldwildlife.org
- Bug Bash and Recycle Roundup from National Geographic Kids www.nationalgeographic.com
- Break it Down from PBS Kids www.pbskids.org
- NASA Climate Kids www.nasa.gov

Videos -

- Maliseet Stewardship of Plants
- NOAA - Endangered Atlantic Salmon
- Passamaquoddy Maliseet Language portal video on harvesting sweet grass (in Maliseet)

naturalresources.maliseets.com

Under the Resources tab on the home page you will find Games and Videos.

We're just getting started so please be sure to check back often.

We have just added the following games:

- Going- Going - Gone and Kahoot! (quizzes about our natural world) from the American Museum of Natural History www.amnh.org
- Recycle City - from EPA www.epa.gov

Mukurtu- (Mook-oo-too)



Katahdin Basket
by Fred Tomah

Mukurtu is a program that is being used by many Tribes and Indigenous peoples around the world to attach Traditional Knowledge (TK) labels to items held in various museums, university collections, etc. Many of these items are incorrectly

labeled and do not respect tribal knowledge or traditions.

This project aims to give the tribes the power to control how this information is stored and presented to the public. Ultimately these labels will help the tribe limit access to some objects/information outside their tribal community based on tribal teachings.

Isaac St. John, HBMI's Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) is looking for tribal members who are interested in interacting with our community's past. Working with the Murkutu program, you would be

helping to identify and label Maliseet objects held by the Abbe Museum. In the process, we will also be setting standards for future labeling projects, so that the way we label today will be used into the future.

If you are interested participating in this project, please contact Isaac at:

istjohn@maliseets.com
or by calling **207-532-4273**.

For general information about Mukurtu or the Abbe Museum check out

www.mukurtu.org
www.abbemuseum.org



Find the Summer related Maliseet and English words in the puzzle at right

Summer Word Search Puzzle

M P Q E T H U N D E R W E R T P
U O Y S N U A U R O R A I O P L
S S N Q L I G H T N I N G A S A
I S M O O N P Q O M I S I Y E N
K E D T M S F A M E T E O R S E
I S G E H E S K Y C L O U D P T
S O J W K Q Q L W A Z X C O O V
Q M B I N Q S A I M P Q W L T W
S U N T P E T L K T E O I L E P
R W M T E Y A U D O S U N A W I
I I U O T P R H A R N S D M S S
D H S F A F S K I S U H S S E K
S K I T K O M I Q R A I N O T U
G E H J I G K M O N O Q A N L W
K O M I W O N Z X C N H A I L O
R A I N B O W V E C L I P S E N

Aurora	Nipayapon
Clouds	Aluhk
Eclipse	Seqqe
Fog	Piskuwon
Hail	Pqomisiye
Lightning	Monomeqakon
Meteor	Esqotewit
Moon	Kisuhs
Planet	Skitkomiq
Rain	Komiwon
Rainbow	Monoqan
Sky	Musukisq
Stars	Possesomuwhke
Sun	Espotewset
Thunder	Petakiw
Wind	Ollamson

Staying Safe this Summer

Now that summer is here in full swing and we’re spending more time outside – it is more important than ever that we pay attention to our surroundings and what our bodies are telling us. Heat stroke (sun stroke) and heat exhaustion are nothing to mess around with. People with heart and lung issues, the young and the elderly are more at risk.

In addition to the wild weather extremes we’ve all been experiencing, incidences of these heat related conditions are made worse by the wildfires raging over a good chunk of the United States.

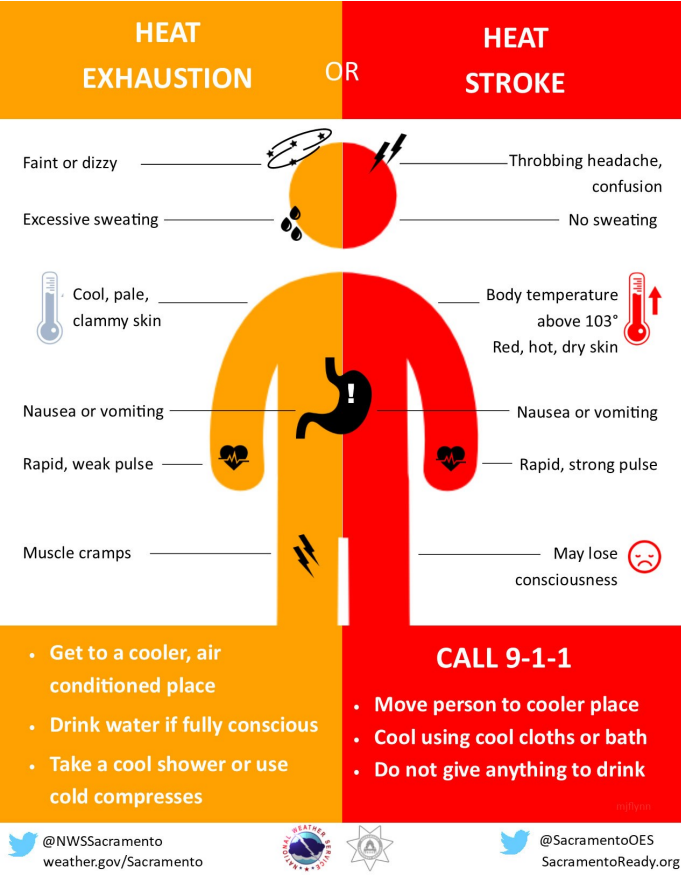
Please pay close attention to the graphic here posted by the National Weather Service. Knowing these signs and taking timely action could help save your life or the life of someone you love.

If you don’t have access to air conditioning try some of these additional tips to help stay cool:

- Stay hydrated—drink plenty of WATER
- Cover your windows or close your blinds, curtains or shades to help block the sun. Close your windows during the heat of the day open them at night
- Stay in the shade as much as possible
- Cover your head with a wide brimmed hat to protect your face and neck
- Wear a wet bandana on your head or around your neck
- Soak you hands or feet in cool water
- Avoid cooking indoors & hot foods when possible
- Spray your self with water to cool down
- Try not to work outside or participate in strenuous activities during the hottest part of the day
- Heat rises - so sleep on the lowest level of your home when possible - basements are often the coolest part of the house

And most of all, never - ever leave children, elders or pets in a hot car even if you’ve parked in the shade, have the windows down or have left the air conditioning running. Cars can heat up to fatal levels in a very short period of time.

For more information how to beat the heat: check out the Center for Disease Control .
<https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/features/extremeheat/index.html>



Cord IQ (continued)

- 6) The larger the gauge of an extension cord, the larger the wattage of the electrical equipment the cord can power.
a) True b) False
- 7) The longer the extension cord:
a) The more current it can carry safely
b) The less current it can carry safely
c) Length has no effect on the amount of current the cord can safely carry.
- 8) Inspect extension cords once a month.
a) True b) False
- 9) When used in wet or damp conditions, extension cords should be plugged into a two prong adapter.
a) True b) False
- 10) What should you do if the insulation on a cord is cut and the wire is exposed?
a) Put tape on it
b) Use it unless it shocks or sparks
c) Don't use it

7 Minute Safety Trainer (www.safety.blr.com)

Answers: 1c, 2b, 3b, 4b, 5b, 6b, 7c, 8a, 9b, 10c

Fighting Rabies in the County



Once again the US Dept. of Agriculture’s Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS) will be seeding portions of Aroostook County with an Oral Rabies Vaccine (ORV) in an attempt to slow the spread of rabies in local wildlife populations, especially raccoons, foxes, coyotes and skunks.

A portion of the project area will be located near tribal lands. The vaccine will be distributed from low flying aircraft over targeted areas in southern Aroostook County.

The baits, consist of a fishmeal coated sachet (about the size of a ketchup package) or an uncoated sachet encased in a fishmeal bait. When the animal bites into the bait, the vaccine enters the animal’s mouth and gives them the vaccine.

As the number of vaccinated animals in the population increases the spread rabies decreases. This year the bait drops will take place between August 5th and August 11, 2021. If you find a bait:

- Leave it where you found it unless it is on your lawn, driveway, or other area unlikely to attract raccoons. While wearing a glove, you can move the bait to an area of thicker cover where raccoons are more to likely find it.
- Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water after any contact with baits. An intact bait will not harm you but the fishmeal smell may get on your skin. If a bait is broken and the liquid vaccine is visible, use gloves to place the bait in a bag and dispose of it with your regular trash. Once the bait has ruptured, it will no longer be effective. Again, be sure to wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water after any contact with a bait.

- This vaccine has been shown to be safe in over 60 different species of animals, including

domestic dogs and cats. Eating a large number of baits may cause a temporarily upset stomach in your pet but does not pose a long-term health risk. Do not attempt to remove a bait from your pet; doing so may cause you to be bitten.

- The vaccine does not contain the live rabies virus, however, it contains a single gene that may cause a local pox-type infection in people who are pregnant or have an immunodeficiency disease.
- **Anyone who comes into contact with the liquid vaccine should wash the affected area thoroughly with soap and water and call the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Wildlife Services office at 1-866-4 USDA-WS (1-866-487-3297), for further instructions and referral.**



Skitkomiq 2021

It’s that time again. Camp looks a little different this year. Instead of going for 4 days straight in mid -August - the camp is taking place every Wednesday from July 14 through August 18, 2021. **It’s not too late to sign up and join us!**

We’ve got a lot of good things planned:

- Archaeology with HBMI THPO Isaac St. John
- Fish Biology with Ben Naumann
- Watershed Model with Kathy Hoppe - DEP
- In-stream Restoration with John Field
- Canoe Safety with Chris Phillips
- Field Trip to Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument and more . . .

If you’re entering 5th through 8th grade this fall, please join us. For an application go to our website

naturalresources.maliseet.com

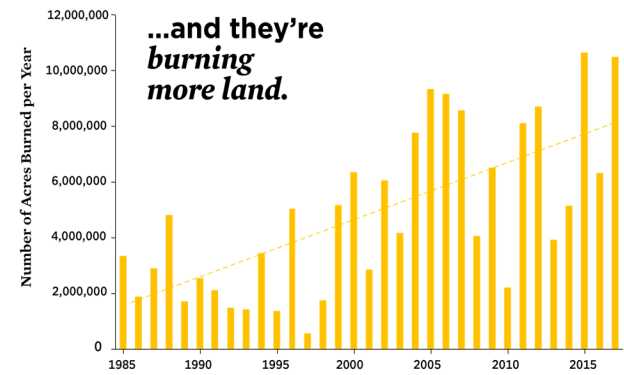
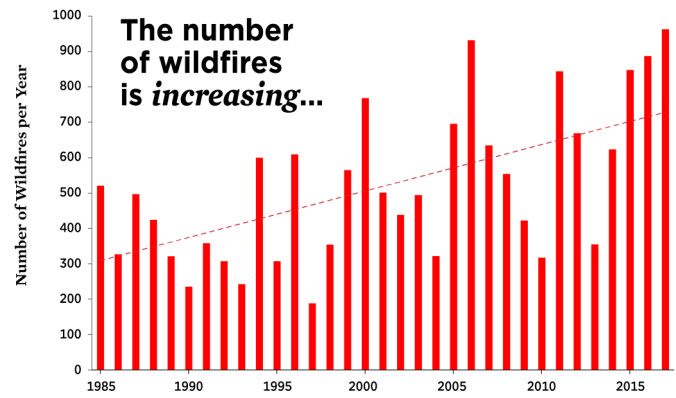
or email Rhonda Smart rsmart@maliseets.com or Sam St. John sstjohn@maliseets.com

Wildfires and Climate Change

Every year, millions of acres of land are consumed by fire in the United States. By raising temperatures, melting snow sooner, and drying soils and forests, climate change is fueling the problem. Here’s what we know.

#1: Wildfires are getting worse

Since 2015, the United States has experienced, on average, roughly 100 more large wildfires every year than the year before. This changes region by region, and year to year, but generally we’re seeing more wildfires, more acres burned, and longer, more intense fire seasons.

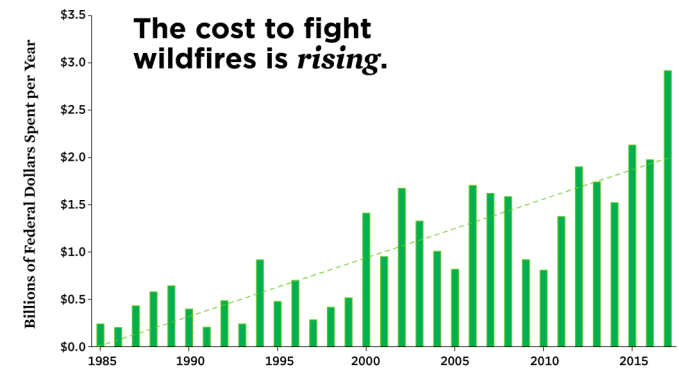


Data from the [Monitoring Trends in Burn Severity](#) program. MTBS only includes large fires in the United States (>500 acres for the eastern US, >1000 acres for the west). Prescribed fires removed.

#2 Wildfires are causing more harm

Wildfires are dangerous and destructive. The historically large Camp Fire of 2018 caused at least ninety deaths, destroyed more than 18,000 structures, and covered an area roughly the same size as the Chicago metropolitan area.

They're also expensive. Between 2014 and 2018, the federal government spent an average of 2.4 billion dollars fighting wildfires every year. Even when adjusted for inflation, that’s more than twice what we spent 20 years earlier (1994-1998).

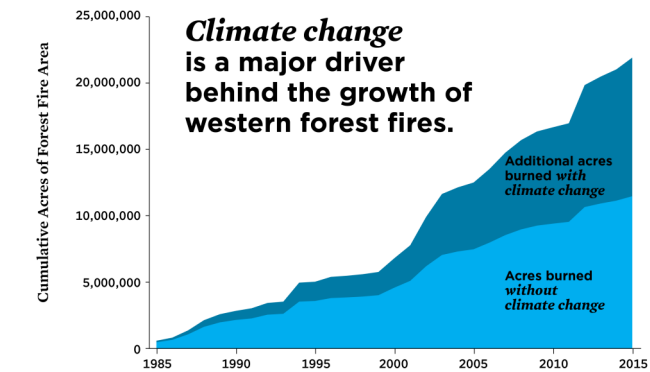


And as the forests burn, they release carbon dioxide and other global warming gases, worsening climate change. As wildfires burn more land, emissions go up.

#3: Climate change is a key driver

Fire has historically been a natural part of many wild landscapes. But global warming has changed some of the underlying variables that make wildfires more or less likely to occur every year.

Warmer temperatures increase the likelihood that fires will burn more intensely. They also cause snow to melt sooner, and lead to drier soils, forests, and plants, which act as kindling. Increased droughts, unusual rain patterns, and insect outbreaks that lead to large stands of dead trees are also connected with climate change—and they all make wildfires more likely.



Data shown are from John T. Abatzoglou and A. Park Williams, [Impact of anthropogenic climate change on wildfire across western US forests](#), which models forest fire area as a function of fuel dryness both with and without climate change.

#4 Management matters

Other factors also influence wildfire risk especially management and development decisions in fire-prone areas near forests.

In the western United States, forests historically evolved with frequent, low-intensity fires that removed underbrush, debris, and fallen timber. This allowed for larger trees and made massive fires much less common.

But for the past century, almost all fires have been suppressed, even small ones. This has allowed forests to maintain denser growth and more potential fuel, leading to larger and more intense wildfires.

In addition, development near and into previously wild areas has increased fire risk and made fire-fighting more costly, challenging, and dangerous.

Government agencies have tried to lower forest density through prescribed burning (purposefully lit, low - intensity fires) and thinning (the physical removal of brush, vegetation and dead trees), but have struggled to do so at scale.



On smaller landscapes in the southeast, land managers conduct far more frequent prescribed burns. These fires bring their own risks, including poor air quality, and the chance of growing to be a damaging wildfire. But by mimicking smaller "natural" fires, prescribed burns can benefit forest ecology, and help mitigate at least some of the increased wildfire risk presented by climate change.

#5 Action is possible

In the near term, ecologically-sound forest and fire management could help limit fire risks.

But in the long-term, *climate action* is the best tool we have. When we reduce global warming emissions, we slow the growth of climate risks, including wildfire.

Until then, summers will continue getting hotter, forests will get drier, and more and more people will face the threat of wildfire



For more information or to get involved visit: the Union of Concerned Scientists website:

<https://www.ucsusa.org/resources/infographic-wildfires-and-climate-change>

Test Your Extension Cord IQ

- Which is a potential hazard of extension cords?
a) Tripping
b) Fire
c) Both a and b
- Extension cords are intended for permanent use.
a) True b) False
- If an extension cord is too short for a job, it is safe to plug in up to 4 other extension cords to make the required length.
a) True b) False
- If you use an Underwriters’ Laboratories (UL)- approved indoor extension cord, it is safe to use it outdoors.
a) True b) False
- If you are working in an area where there is moisture, heat or chemicals, you can safely use a regular indoor extension cord as long as it is in good condition.
a) True b) False

