
October - December

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10/29/2019 Letter from J. L. Ephross

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October 29, 1947

Dear Sir:

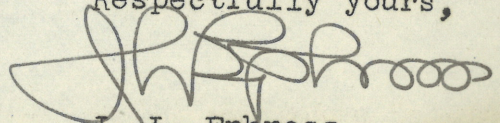
Our people of Maine have had a gruesome experience. Unexpectedly we were called upon to fight the relentless onslaught of fire. We had left ourselves exposed; we were unprepared. We "must now dedicate ourselves to the proposition" that this shall never happen again.

I propose to you seven "MUSTS".

1. Eliminate slash as a routine part of lumbering operations under enforced control.
2. Establish under direction of Forestry Dept. regular yearly backfiring at strategic points.
3. Establish courses in fire-fighting and have sufficient number of citizens in each community familiar with terrain, theory and practice.
4. Establish and coordinate loaning and exchange of fire fighters and all manner of equipment (small as well as large) and a State pool of equipment subject to call.
5. License (to effect inspection) of all oil barrel and tank installations.
6. Organize and practice border-closing and road blocking and screening on a state-wide basis to be used in drought periods or disasters.
7. Establish authorized disaster reporting for press and radio.

I call on you for consideration of the above and prompt action.

Respectfully yours,


J. L. Ephross
Kennebunk, Maine