

# Great Day to Fight Fire: The Mann Gulch Fire of 1949



Norman Maclean's gripping account of the Mann Gulch fire of 1949 is a must-read for anyone interested in firefighting history, wilderness survival, or human courage in the face of adversity.

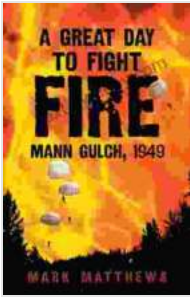
## The Mann Gulch Fire

On August 5, 1949, a lightning strike ignited a fire in the remote Mann Gulch of Montana's Bitterroot Mountains. Within hours, the fire had grown into a raging inferno, trapping a group of 16 firefighters.

### **A Great Day to Fight Fire: Mann Gulch, 1949**

by Mark Matthews

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5



Language	: English
File size	: 7106 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 282 pages



The firefighters, led by Ranger Wag Dodge, were part of an elite smokejumping crew. Smokejumpers are specially trained firefighters who parachute into remote areas to combat wildfires.

The Mann Gulch fire was one of the deadliest wildfires in American history. Thirteen of the 16 firefighters were killed, including Dodge. The fire was so intense that the firefighters' bodies were found burned beyond recognition.

### **Norman Maclean's Book**

Maclean, a former smokejumper himself, was commissioned to write a report on the Mann Gulch fire. His report was eventually published as the book "Young Men and Fire" in 1992.

The book is a gripping account of the fire and its aftermath. Maclean tells the story of the firefighters' bravery and sacrifice, and he explores the human toll of the tragedy.

"Young Men and Fire" is a classic of firefighting literature. It is a powerful reminder of the dangers that firefighters face, and it is a tribute to the men who died in the Mann Gulch fire.

## **Legacy of the Mann Gulch Fire**

The Mann Gulch fire had a profound impact on the way that wildfires are fought. The fire led to the development of new firefighting techniques and equipment, and it helped to raise awareness of the dangers of wildfires.

The firefighters who died in the Mann Gulch fire are remembered as heroes. Their sacrifice helped to save lives and property, and their legacy continues to inspire firefighters today.

"Young Men and Fire" is a powerful and moving book that tells the story of one of the deadliest wildfires in American history. Maclean's writing is both gripping and thought-provoking, and he does a masterful job of capturing the human toll of the tragedy. If you are interested in firefighting history, wilderness survival, or human courage, then I highly recommend reading "Young Men and Fire."

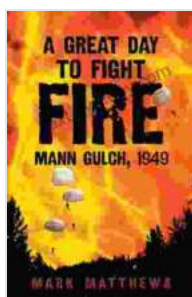
## **Additional Information**

- The Mann Gulch fire burned over 5 square miles and destroyed over 1,000 acres of timber.
- The fire was so intense that it created its own weather, including a firestorm that reached temperatures of over 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit.
- The firefighters who died in the Mann Gulch fire were all between the ages of 18 and 29.
- The Mann Gulch fire led to the development of new firefighting techniques and equipment, including the use of helicopters to drop water on wildfires.

- The firefighters who died in the Mann Gulch fire are remembered as heroes. Their sacrifice helped to save lives and property, and their legacy continues to inspire firefighters today.

## Book Details

- Title: Young Men and Fire
- Author: Norman Maclean
- Publisher: Vintage Books
- Publication Date: 1992
- : 978-0679741822



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