

**FOREST FIRES, COSTS OF COMBATING**  
**Act of Apr. 3, 1929, P.L. 135, No. 137**  
AN ACT

Cl. 32

Authorizing the Department of Justice, acting for the Department of Forests and Waters, to institute suits on behalf of the Commonwealth to recover from persons, associations, copartnerships, and corporations, and their officers, agents, and employes, causing forest fires, the expenses incurred by the Department of Forests and Waters on account of such fires.

**Compiler's Note:** Section 302(h) of Act 18 of 1995, which created the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and renamed the Department of Environmental Resources as the Department of Environmental Protection, provided that the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources shall exercise the powers and duties conferred upon the Department of Forests and Waters by Act 137 of 1929.

Section 1. Be it enacted, &c., That from and after the passage of this act, every person causing a forest fire within this Commonwealth, directly or by the act of an agent or employe, shall be liable to the Commonwealth for all expenses incurred by the Department of Forests and Waters on account of such fire.

Section 2. The Department of Justice, acting for and on behalf of the Department of Forests and Waters, may recover the expenses incurred by the latter department on account of any forest fire, from the person liable for payment of such expenses, by instituting, in the name of the Commonwealth, an action of assumpsit in any county in which the defendant can be served with process, but no such action shall be brought unless the person liable for the payment of such expenses has failed to pay the same within thirty days after receiving a bill therefor from the Department of Forests and Waters.

All moneys recovered by the Department of Justice in such action shall be paid into the General Fund of the State Treasury.

(2 amended May 22, 1933, P.L.942, No.178)

Section 3. The term "forest fire," as used in this act, is intended to include fires which burn in woods, farmers' woodlots, marshes, brush barrens, brush lands, and wild, unseated, uncultivated land.

Section 4. The term "person," as used in this act, shall include individuals, associations, copartnerships, and corporations, and their officers, agents, or employes.