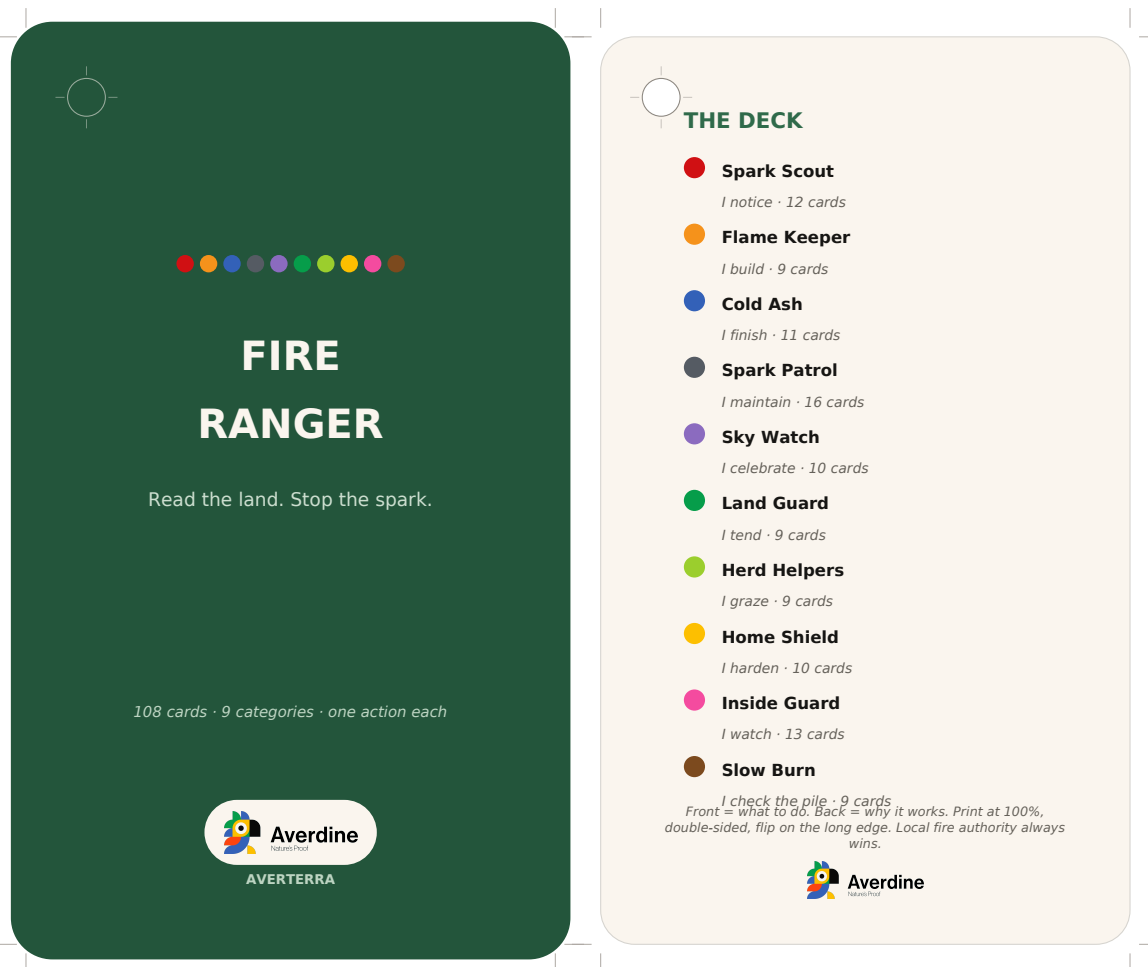




**SPARK SCOUT***I notice*

1.1

The Human Spark

Have a look at what you brought with you today — the car, a cigarette, the grill, a phone charger, a glass bottle left in the sun. Any one of them can start a fire. Pick the one you would miss the least and take it home again.

*Everything is connected***SPARK SCOUT***I notice*

1.2

The Five Doors

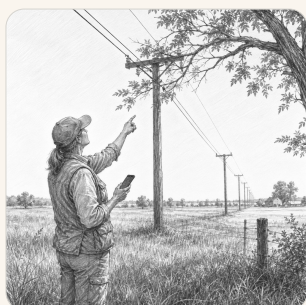
Fire gets in through five doors: equipment and power, arson, debris burning, recreation, and plain carelessness. Before an outdoor day, say out loud which of them is open where you are. Then close it.

*The subtle drives the visible***SPARK SCOUT***I notice*

1.3

Under the Power Line

Walk the line where power cables cross your land. Look for anything growing into them, any leaning tree that could reach them, any span that sags. Report what you find to the utility — never try to deal with it yourself.

*Distributed leadership***SPARK SCOUT***I notice*

1.4

Ground Fire

Kneel at a woodland edge and push your hand down into the litter — needles, leaves, the dark duff underneath. Notice how deep it goes before you reach soil. That depth is how long a ground fire can smoulder after the flames have gone.

*The subtle drives the visible*



SPARK SCOUT

1.2

Why it works:*The Five Doors*

Vehicles, machinery and power lines trigger roughly 11% to 14% of ignitions. Arson accounts for about 21% to 30%. Debris burning is nearly 29% of human-started incidents, and campfires, cigarettes and fireworks make up smaller shares of 3% to 9% each. Naming the door makes it visible.

The subtle drives the visible

SPARK SCOUT

1.1

Why it works:*The Human Spark*

Humans cause roughly 84% to 90% of wildfires in populated landscapes, which makes human activity the leading ignition source — well ahead of natural causes like lightning. The good news hidden in that number is that most fires are ours to prevent.

Everything is connected

SPARK SCOUT

1.4

Why it works:*Ground Fire*

Ground fires creep along through litter and duff. They are slow and low, and usually you can walk away from one — but they are also the fires that hide, burning downwards and sideways out of sight for hours or even days.

The subtle drives the visible

SPARK SCOUT

1.3

Why it works:*Under the Power Line*

Equipment and power lines together trigger roughly 11% to 14% of ignitions. A line arcing against a branch can drop burning material along its whole length, often in wind and often at night. Clearing under the line is the utility's job, but somebody has to tell them.

Distributed leadership

**SPARK SCOUT***I notice*

1.5

Crown Fire

Now look up. Find the ladder — the low branches, the brush, the dead needles that let flame climb from the floor into the tops. Try sketching it. That drawing is the difference between a fire you can walk away from and one you cannot.

*Everything is connected***SPARK SCOUT***I notice*

1.6

Three Ways In

Fire spreads three ways: embers, flames and heat. Stand at your front door and give your house a score out of five for each one. Whichever score is lowest is where you start.

*Balance creates abundance***SPARK SCOUT***I notice*

1.7

Read the Air

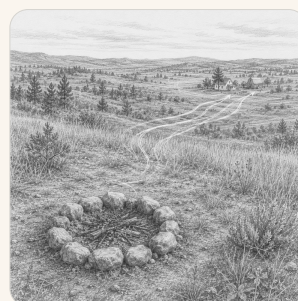
Before anything involving fire, check three things: the wind, the humidity, and how long it has been since rain. If the wind is up and the humidity is down, postpone it. Not a smaller version of it — postpone it.

*Timing matters***SPARK SCOUT***I notice*

1.8

The Downwind Kilometres

Stand where you would light a fire and look downwind. Say out loud what sits a kilometre away — a house, a barn, a plantation. That is your real risk radius, not the metre around your feet.

*Adaptation over force*



SPARK SCOUT

1.6

Why it works:*Three Ways In*

Most houses lost to wildfire are not taken by a wall of flame. They are lit by embers landing in gutters, vents and mulch, sometimes hours after the front has passed. Protection has to answer all three routes, or it does not really answer any of them.

Balance creates abundance

SPARK SCOUT

1.5

Why it works:*Crown Fire*

Crown fires move through the treetops, throw embers far ahead of themselves and travel faster than people. The only thing that promotes a ground fire into a crown fire is vertical fuel continuity, so the ladder is what you are looking for.

Everything is connected

SPARK SCOUT

1.8

Why it works:*The Downwind Kilometres*

Embers do not travel in a tidy line. Convection in an intense fire lifts burning material and drops it well ahead of the front, and spotting a kilometre downwind is ordinary rather than exceptional. The ground you can see is not the same as the ground you are answerable for.

Adaptation over force

SPARK SCOUT

1.7

Why it works:*Read the Air*

If you are planning to set a fire, you need to understand the weather and whether the vegetation around you can easily catch. Dry, windy conditions can turn a manageable ember into a running fire in minutes. Conditions and local restrictions should guide the decision, not the calendar.

Timing matters