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If you only need the buying answer, short-term digital access is still the cheapest route in this snapshot, but the current Merybook print listing is strong enough to matter. It stays below the broader print market and sits close to longer digital access, so print is a reasonable ownership choice if you expect to return to the material after one course.

## Current price comparison

Format / Seller	Price	Link
Print from Merybook	\$61.31	<a href="#">Check price</a>
VitalSource eText, 60 days	\$44.53	<a href="#">Check price</a>
eCampus digital rent, 180 days	\$65.32	<a href="#">Check price</a>
eCampus new print with access code	\$98.95	<a href="#">Check price</a>
eCampus marketplace used	\$86.37	<a href="#">Check price</a>

The price pattern here is actually pretty sensible. If you only need a fast, disposable access window, the 60-day VitalSource option is the cheapest. But if you are comparing ownership and longer use, the current Merybook print copy is much more attractive than the broader print market and very close to the 180-day digital rent. That makes print a defensible choice instead of an impulse purchase.

## What this book actually teaches

*Fire Behavior and Combustion Processes* is valuable because it moves students past memorized terminology and into the science of how fires start, grow, transfer energy, and behave under changing conditions. A good fire science text should help readers understand combustion, heat transfer, fuel behavior, ventilation effects, and the logic behind fire development, not just recite definitions for an exam.

That is exactly why ownership can make sense here. Students in fire protection, fire investigation, or advanced fire behavior study often return to these concepts later

because the book is really teaching causal reasoning. It is easier to reuse a physical copy when you need to revisit diagrams, process explanations, and the relationship between fire dynamics and operational decision-making.

## **Who should buy print and who should not**

Buy print if you are in a fire science track and expect to come back to combustion, heat transfer, and fire behavior logic after the class ends. In that situation, the current print price is strong enough to justify ownership.

Do not buy print if you just need a short exam-prep window and do not care about keeping the book. The 60-day eText is the cheaper short-term solution.

## **Sources checked**

- Merybook product listing for ISBN 9781284206562
- VitalSource eText pricing for short-term access
- eCampus pricing for digital rent, marketplace used, and new print
- Pricing reviewed on April 19, 2026