

Massachusetts Wildfire Activity Briefing

November 6, 2024, as of 17:00

Massachusetts DCR Bureau of Forest Fire Control and Forestry

SYNOPSIS:

Warm temperatures and wind events reaching Reg Flag conditions increased fire activity across the central and eastern half of the Massachusetts. All ongoing fire operations experienced increased fire activity along downwind perimeter lines and heavy burning fuels interior. New fire starts in the last 24-hour period resulted in several structure impacts, including 2 outbuildings destroyed or damaged in Franklin County and damage to a residential home in Randolph from an outside fire. An increasing number of communities are now instituting burn bans at the local level. General winds will shift to a northwesterly flow tomorrow with temperatures ranging in the mid 60's. Winds will be lighter around 10 mph, however we could see intermittent gusts to 25 mph in the afternoon. Elevated Fire Risk will remain high for tomorrow. The continued leaf drop remains the number one challenge for fire crews in maintaining perimeter control around most fires where foliage has yet to completely drop.

Ongoing active fire incidents- Extended Operations

- **Cain Hill Fire:** Holding at 140 acres at 70% containment. Special attention to strengthening perimeter in northeast corner adjacent to residential area. Smoldering interior over most of the fire in heavy surface fuels. Producing light smoke locally.
- **Middleton Pond:** 188 acres and 80% contained. DCR Fire crews plumed sprinkler system along Division A to increase protection of homes immediately adjacent to the fire. Continued creeping and surface fire and moderate to heavy smoldering interior. State and local crews engaged.
- **Pappas Fire:** Canton, MA. 33 Acres dropped to 50% containment due to increased interior burning. Areas of low surface fire activity overnight due to added leaf litter fallout on the burn area. Local units continue to patrol and mop-up. Low smoldering activity in the interior with some creeping fire in fresh leaf litter. Local FD monitoring
- **Wolcott Hill:** Milton, MA, Blue Hills Reservation: Remains at 90% containment and 4 acres. Resource did great work with both on the ground water delivery and from the National Guard. State and Local resources are continuing to patrol and monitor.
- **Traders Way:** Salem, MA. 15 Acres at 50% containment. Task force and helicopter used on initial attack. Structures in proximity. Continues to smolder interior producing local smoke conditions. Containment lines are being strengthened. No new activity. Local FD monitoring
- **Old Forest Rd:** North Andover, MA. Located in Boxford State Forest. 5 acres. 50% contained. Crews continue to strength containment lines. No new activity.
- **Bradway:** Monson, MA. Located on Bradway Rd. Mapped at 44 acres, 90% Contained. Crews made great progress again today in securing perimeter today with assistance of forestry task force resources and DCR Fire crews. Heightened dead tree snag issues throughout the burn area. State and local crews engaged.
- **Castle Rock:** Saugus, MA., Breakheart State Reservation. 22 acres mapped, 80% contained. State and local crew actively engaged and around the fire. Fire anchored to existing hardpacked trails and roads.
- **Pond South:** Middleton, MA, 1 mile south of ongoing Middleton Pond fire on south shore of the pond. Estimated at 4 acres, 60% contained. State and local crews around the fire.
- **Fitzgerald:** Northampton, MA. 55 Acres, 85% Contained. Remote fire in conservation area off Coles Meadow Rd. Difficult access. Fire is burning against a wetland marsh with dry shrub and grass fuels. Helicopter air operations continued to improve perimeter control across most of the fire. Heavy smoldering interior. State and local crews around the fire.
- **Moose Meadow:** Montgomery, MA, 60 acres and 60% contained. Located off Pritcher Rd in the watershed area, the fire started overnight from an abandoned campfire along the reservoir and spread moderately toward Pritcher Rd. Growth to the southeast this afternoon. Helicopter air operations used to slow rates of spread toward structures.
- **Howe:** Spencer, MA. in Spencer State Forest. Fire is 9 acres and 80% contained. Burning deep into organic soils. Many resources from local towns with DCR Fire made good progress.
- **FD05111 (NEW Fire):** Georgetown, MA Currently 10 Acres, estimated 20% containment. Located in the **Georgetown Rowley State Forest**. Comprised of 3 small suspicious starts, which burned together overnight. Will produce smoke conditions on Interstate 95 in the vicinity of Route 133.
- DCR Fire staff are assisting local fire departments with monitoring on all active incidents. DCR Fire Towers are on full alert and providing some good success at detecting new fire starts quickly, resulting in much quicker dispatching to some fires.

FIRE STATISTICS:

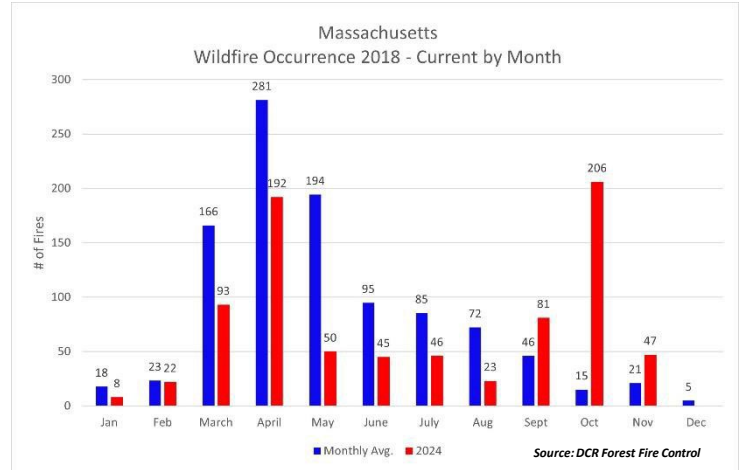
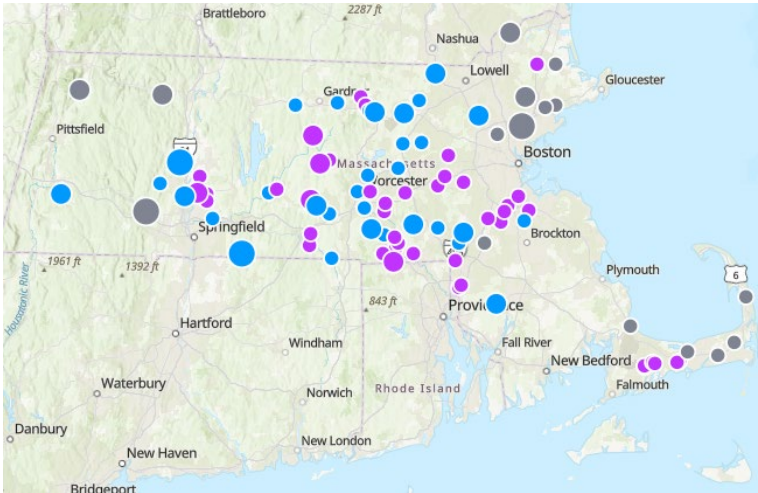
YTD STATE TOTALS:	854 FIRES	1,365 ACRES BURNED
OCTOBER TOTALS:	208 FIRES	626 ACRES BURNED
NOVEMBER TOTALS:	86 FIRES	195 ACRES BURNED
7 DAY TOTALS:	93 FIRES	229 ACRES BURNED
24 HR:	25 FIRES	6.2 ACRES BURNED (Est.)

Current Massachusetts Active Wildfire Incidents as of 11/6/24:

Fire Name	Town	Start Date	Current Size	Est. % Contain.	Command	Ownership	Status	Potential for Growth
Cain Hill	Salem/Lynn	10/26/24	140	70 %	Unified DCR D5/Local IC	Private	Active	Moderate
	Holding at 140 acres at 50% containment. Special attention to strengthening perimeter in northeast corner adjacent to residential area. Smoldering interior over most of the fire in heavy surface fuels. Producing light smoke locally.							
Middleton Pond	Middleton	10/27/24	188	70 %	Unified DCR D6/Local IC	Municipal Lynn Woods Res	Active	Moderate
	Continued creeping and surface fire and moderate to heavy smoldering interior. State and local crews engaged.							
Pappas	Canton	10/27/24	33	90 %	Canton FD	Private	Patrol/Monitor	Low
	Local units continue to patrol and mop-up. Creeping and smoldering in new leaf drop fuels.							
Wolcott Hill	Milton	10/20/24	4	90 %	Unified DCR / Local	State	Patrol/Monitor	Low
Blue Hills Reservation	Smoldering and creeping fire. Back in monitor and patrol status.							
Traders Way	Salem	10/29/24	15	50%	Salem FD	Municipal	Mop up	Moderate
	Crews working on strengthen containment lines. Adjacent to residential values at risk. Currently creeping and smoldering interior with light to moderate smoke generation locally.							
Old Forest Rd	North Andover	10/29/24	5	30%	Local and DCR	State	Monitor	Moderate
Boxford State Forest	Creeping and smoldering fire interior.							
Bradway	Monson	10/31/24	44	90%	Monson FD/DCR Unified	Private	Active	Moderate
	Crews made great progress again today in securing perimeter today with assistance of forestry task force resources and DCR Fire crews.							
Castle Rock	Saugus	11/1/24	22	80%	Local and DCR	State	Mop up	Moderate
Breakheart Reservation	State and local crew actively engaged and around the fire. Fire anchored to existing hardpacked trails and roads. 22 acres mapped, 80% contained.							
Pond South	Middleton	11/1/24	4 est.	60%	Local and DCR	Municipal	Active	Moderate
	1 mile south of ongoing Middleton Pond fire on south shore of the pond. Estimated at 4 acres, 60% contained. State and local crews around the fire.							
Fitzgerald	Northampton	11/1/24	55	85 %	Local and DCR	Private	Active	High
	Fire is burning against a wetland marsh with dry shrub and grass fuels. Helicopter air operations were very effective today to improve perimeter control across most of the fire. Heavy smoldering interior. Currently 55 Acres, 85% Contained. State and local crews around the fire.							
Moose Meadow	Montgomery	11/2/24	60	60 %	Local and DCR	Municipal	Active	High
	Growth to the southeast this afternoon. Helicopter air operations used to slow rates of spread toward structures. Currently estimated at 60 acres and 60% contained. More accurate mapping planned for tomorrow operations.							
Howe	Spencer	11/1/24	9.5	80 %	Local and DCR	State	Active	High
Spencer State Forest	Spencer, MA. in Spencer State Forest. Fire is 9 acres and 80% contained. Burning deep into organic soils. Many resources from local towns with DCR Fire made good progress.							
FD05111 (NEW Fire)	Georgetown	11/5/24	10	20 %	Local and DCR	State	Active	High
Georgetown Rowley State Forest	Located in the Georgetown Rowley State Forest. Comprised of 3 small suspicious starts, which burned together overnight. Will produce smoke conditions on Interstate 95 in the vicinity of Route 133.							

TACTICS AND STRATEGIES: DCR will continue operations of the Fire Tower network once dry conditions return to provide early detection of any fires. Early detection and quick response are important in keeping fires small and manageable in these drought conditions. All fires with a delayed response can spread quickly in the current dry conditions. Full suppression of these fires will require labor intensive operations. DCR can provide guidance for our local fire department partners on all fires for the most effective tactics and incident management if needed. Late season leaf drop is causing increasing challenges to perimeter control. Leaf blowers have proved highly effective in maintaining fire line in patrol and mop-up.

CAUSES: Almost all fire activity is human caused, although drought conditions are increasing the potential for lightening caused fires if thunderstorms are in the area. Numerous fires have been traced back to abandoned campfires not properly extinguished for the present drought conditions.



7 Day Wildfire Activity Since October 30th

