

**Massachusetts Wildfire Activity Briefing**  
**November 19, 2024, as of 17:00**  
**Massachusetts DCR Bureau of Forest Fire Control and Forestry**

**SYNOPSIS:**

Few new starts today across the state, but fires that got established were active with major growth. A new fire in Great Barrington grew quickly to 372 acres in steep rugged terrain. A successful indirect burn-out operation on Thomas Road fire was conducted today. **Forecast for Wednesday calls for slightly lower winds and higher humidities across the state.** Numerous communities across the state have instituted burn bans at the local level. Many local fire departments continue to be dispatched for illegal burning calls. Appears to be strong confidence in a steady rain event for Thursday into Friday of this week.

**Ongoing active fire incidents- Extended Operations**

- **Butternut: Great Barrington:** 372 acres at 0% containment. Active fire behavior in steep and rugged terrain. Access is difficult.
- **Thomas Road: North Andover,** Boxford State Forest. 517 Acres at 60% contained. Burn out operations were conducted, and the fire is being held on hard packed roads. No structures threatened at this time. State Forest and trail closures in effect. No immediate residential values at risk.
- **Houghtons Path: Milton,** Smoldering and creeping fire on the interior. Good progress was made on mop-up and securing the perimeter. Extensive work on cutting weakened trees that threaten the line and along Hillside Road. Smoke impacts on immediate area. Smoke impacts on immediate area.
- **Mt. Gilead:** Lynn, MA. Lynn Woods Reservation. Currently at 440 Acres, 50% contained. Smoldering and creeping fire on the interior. Most areas along the perimeter looking strong.
- **Crag Mountain South:** Northfield, MA. 5 acres and 85% containment. Local resources continue to patrol and monitor.
- **Old Forest Road:** North Andover, MA. Located in Boxford State Forest. Estimated at 134 acres and 60% containment. Resources continue to mop-up and patrol today.
- **Cain Hill Fire:** 140+ acres and 60% containment. Smoldering interior over most of the fire in heavy surface fuels.
- **Middleton Pond:** Middleton and North Reading, MA. 242 acres and 60% containment. Creeping and surface fire again today in leaf litter areas that were not burned, and moderate to heavy smoldering on the interior. Continued patrol of perimeter.
- **Pappas Fire:** Canton, MA. 33 Acres and 90% containment. Low smoldering activity in the interior.
- **Traders Way:** Salem, MA. 15 Acres at 85% containment. No new activity. Local FD monitoring
- **Bradway:** Monson, MA. Located on Bradway Rd. 44 acres at 90% Contained. No new information.
- **Castle Rock:** Saugus, MA., Breakheart State Reservation. Increased acres to 24, 60% contained. Heavy smoldering. Mop up continues.
- **Fitzgerald:** Northampton, MA. 55 Acres, 85% Contained. Resources continue to patrol and monitor. Light smoldering interior.
- **Moose Meadow:** Montgomery, MA. 60 acres and 80% contained. Mop-up Monitor and patrol.
- **FD05111:** Georgetown, MA. Currently 10 Acres, estimated 75 % containment. Located in the Georgetown Rowley State Forest. Fire is in Patrol and Monitor status.
- **Fern:** Saugus, MA. 20 Acres at 70% containment. Located on Breakheart Reservation. Smoldering continues in the interior.
- **Braintree Brush:** Braintree, MA. 40 acres and 80% contained. Smoldering in the interior.
- **Pine Hill:** Foxborough, MA. Currently 10 acres and 90% contained. Patrol and monitoring is ongoing.
- **Depot:** Whately, MA. estimated 2 acres and 85% contained. Interior smoldering continues. Local and DCR Fire continue to patrol and monitor.
- **Rocky Pond:** Boylston, MA: 2 acres and 70% contained. In patrol and mop up. Snags and weakened trees inside perimeter.
- **Franklin Well #8:** Franklin, Ma. 12 Acres at 80% contained. smoldering and creeping fire behavior. In patrol and mop up status.

**FIRE STATISTICS:**

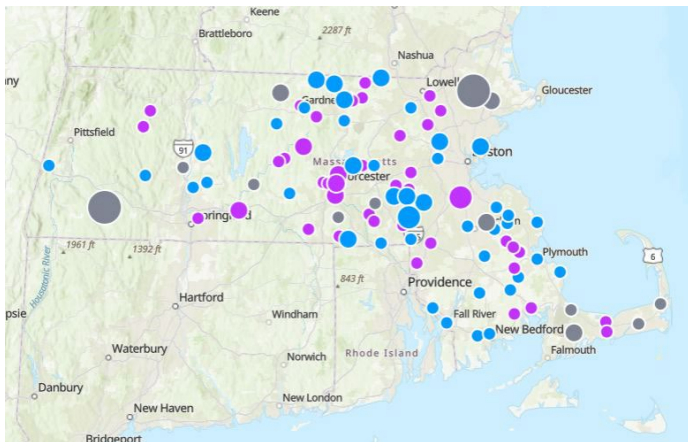
<b>YTD STATE TOTALS:</b>	<b>1212 FIRES</b>	<b>3,300 ACRES BURNED</b>
<b>OCTOBER TOTALS:</b>	<b>213 FIRES</b>	<b>841 ACRES BURNED</b>
<b>NOVEMBER TOTALS:</b>	<b>410 FIRES</b>	<b>1838 ACRES BURNED</b>
<b>7 DAY TOTALS:</b>	<b>106 FIRES</b>	<b>975 ACRES BURNED</b>
<b>24 HR:</b>	<b>7 FIRES</b>	<b>374 ACRES BURNED (Est.)</b>

## ONGOING SAFETY ALERT for ALL FIRE RESPONSE STAFF:

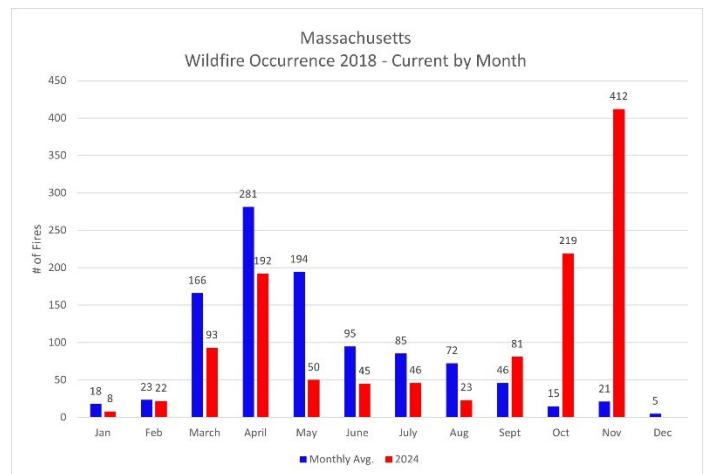
Both live and dead trees (Snag Trees) within active fire perimeters continue to be an **INCREASING RISK** to fire fighters. There are daily reports of near misses and increasing concerns of snags posing safety risks to firefighters on the fireline. Please brief all personnel, insist on wearing proper PPE, including hardhats or helmets, and if in doubt avoid areas with burning dead snags. Adjust tactics to make **firefighter safety the top priority objective for daily operations.**

**TACTICS AND STRATEGIES:** DCR will continue operations of the Fire Tower network through the weekend 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 Fire Locations



Smoke column from the Butternut Fire in Great Barrington

Current Massachusetts Wildfire Incidents in Active or Monitor Status as of:					11/19/2024			
Fire Name	Town	Start Date	Current Size	Est. % Contain.	Command	Ownership	Status	Potential for Growth
<b>Butternut (NEW)</b>	<b>Great Barrington</b>	<b>11/19/2024</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Local and DCR</b>	<b>State/Private</b>	<b>Active</b>	<b>High</b>
	Active fire behavior in steep and rugged terrain. Access is difficult.							
<b>Thomas Road</b>	<b>North Andover</b>	<b>11/17/2024</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>Local and DCR</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Active</b>	<b>High</b>
Boxford State Forest	Active fire behavior. Burn out operations were conducted and the fire is being held on hard packed roads. No structures threatened at this time. State Forest and trail closures in effect.							
<b>Houghtons Path</b>	<b>Milton</b>	<b>11/18/2024</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>Local and DCR</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Active</b>	<b>High</b>
Blue Hills State Reservation	Smoldering and creeping fire on the interior. Good progress was made on mop-up and securing the perimeter. Extensive work on cutting weakened trees that threaten the line and along Hillside Road. Smoke impacts on immediate area.							
<b>Old Forest Rd</b>	<b>North Andover</b>	<b>10/29/2024</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>Local and DCR</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Monitor</b>	<b>Moderate</b>
Boxford State Forest	State and local resources continued Mop -up and patrol.							
<b>Mt. Gilead</b>	<b>Lynn</b>	<b>11/8/2024</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>Local and DCR</b>	<b>Municipal</b>	<b>Active</b>	<b>Moderate</b>
	Smoldering and creeping fire mostly interior. No growth reported today.							
<b>Cain Hill</b>	<b>Salem/Lynn</b>	<b>10/26/2024</b>	<b>140+</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>Unified DCR D5/Local IC</b>	<b>Private</b>	<b>Active</b>	<b>Moderate</b>
	Smoldering interior over most of the fire in heavy surface fuels. Producing increased smoke conditions due to dry conditions.							
<b>Middleton Pond</b>	<b>Middleton</b>	<b>10/27/2024</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>Unified DCR D6/Local IC</b>	<b>Municipal</b>	<b>Active</b>	<b>Moderate</b>
	Creeping and surface fire and moderate to heavy smoldering interior. Continue to patrol perimeter. Isolated surface fire activity in unburned surface leaf litter.							
<b>Pappas</b>	<b>Canton</b>	<b>10/27/2024</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>Canton FD</b>	<b>Private</b>	<b>Patrol/Monitor</b>	<b>Low</b>
	Local units continue to patrol and mop-up. Creeping and smoldering in new leaf drop fuels.							
<b>Pine Hill</b>	<b>Foxborough</b>	<b>11/9/2024</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>Unified DCR / Local</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Patrol/Monitor</b>	<b>Low</b>
F. Gilbert Hills State Forest	DCR resources continue to patrol and monitor. Interior smoldering continues producing light smoke.							
<b>Traders Way</b>	<b>Salem</b>	<b>10/29/2024</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>Salem FD</b>	<b>Municipal</b>	<b>Patrol / Monitor</b>	<b>Moderate</b>
	No new activity. Local FD monitoring. Increased containment level.							
<b>Bradway</b>	<b>Monson</b>	<b>10/31/2024</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>Monson FD/DCR Unified</b>	<b>Private</b>	<b>Monitor</b>	<b>Low</b>
	In monitor Status.							
<b>Castle Rock</b>	<b>Saugus</b>	<b>11/1/2024</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>Local and DCR</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Mop up</b>	<b>Moderate</b>
Breakheart Reservation	Local and State resources continue to monitor and patrol.							
<b>Fitzgerald</b>	<b>Northampton</b>	<b>11/1/2024</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>Local and DCR</b>	<b>Private</b>	<b>Patrol / Monitor</b>	<b>Low</b>
	State and local crews around the fire. Suppression operations suspended and transitioned to patrol and monitor status.							
<b>Moose Meadow</b>	<b>Montgomery</b>	<b>11/2/2024</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>Local and DCR</b>	<b>Municipal</b>	<b>Patrol/Monitor</b>	<b>Low</b>
	Mop-up and patrol continues.							
<b>FD05111</b>	<b>Georgetown</b>	<b>11/5/2024</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>Local and DCR</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Patrol / Monitor</b>	<b>Low</b>
Georgetown Rowley State Forest	Fire is being patrolled and monitored.							
<b>Fern</b>	<b>Saugus</b>	<b>11/6/2024</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>Local and DCR</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Active</b>	<b>Low</b>
Breakheart Reservation	Creeping and smoldering fire behavior. .							
<b>Crag Mountain South</b>	<b>Northfield</b>	<b>11/8/2024</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>Local and DCR</b>	<b>Private</b>	<b>Patrol/Monitor</b>	<b>Low</b>
	Local and state resources continue to monitor and patrol.							
<b>Braintree Brush</b>	<b>Braintree</b>	<b>11/8/2024</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>Local and DCR</b>	<b>Municipal</b>	<b>Active</b>	<b>Moderate</b>
	Smoldering along the line and interior. Smoldering and smoke generation continues in the interior.							
<b>Depot</b>	<b>Whately</b>	<b>11/12/2024</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>Local and DCR</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Monitor#</b>	<b>Low</b>
	Monitoring perimeter and interior smoldering. Local and DCR Fire continue to patrol and monitor.							
<b>Rocky Pond</b>	<b>Boylston</b>	<b>11/16/2024</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>Local and DCR</b>	<b>Private</b>	<b>Active</b>	<b>Low</b>
	In patrol and mop up. Snags and weakened trees inside perimeter.							
<b>Franklin Well #8</b>	<b>Franklin</b>	<b>11/17/2024</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>Local FD</b>	<b>Private</b>	<b>Active</b>	<b>Moderate</b>
	Smoldering and creeping fire behavior. In patrol and mop up status.							