



State of Connecticut
 Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection
 Division of Emergency Management & Homeland Security



State Emergency Operations Center - Situation Report (SITREP)

Incident: Hawthorne & Various Brush Fires
Activation Level: **E - ENHANCED MONITORING**
Published: November 20, 2024
WebEOC Incident Name: Incident 2024-25-24 Statewide Forest Fire Coordination
Operational Period: October 21, 2024 – ongoing

Current Declarations

10/24/24 – FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) Declaration approved for Hawthorne Fire	https://portal.ct.gov/governor/news/press-releases/2024/10-2024/governor-lamont-secures-fema-grant-to-assist-with-emergency-costs-of-responding-to-hawthorne-fire?language=en_US
Submitted add on request for the Oswegatchie Hills and Rocky Neck Fires in East Lyme – FEMA R1 denied	
10/25/24 - State of Emergency Declared Due to Critical Fire Weather Conditions Statewide	https://portal.ct.gov/governor/news/press-releases/2024/10-2024/governor-lamont-declares-state-of-emergency-due-to-critical-fire-weather-conditions-statewide?language=en_US

Current Advisories

Governor issued press release on Stage 2 Drought Advisory: https://portal.ct.gov/governor/news/press-releases/2024/11-2024/governor-lamont-declares-stage-2-drought-advisory-for-all-of-connecticut?language=en_US

The US Drought Monitor has placed a majority of Litchfield County and portions of Fairfield, Hartford and Windham Counties under category D2 – Severe Drought. The rest of Connecticut remains under category D1 – Moderate Drought.

DEEP emergency burn ban is in effect at all state parks, forests, and wildlife management areas – prohibiting the use of all outdoor grills, firepits, campfires, etc. <https://portal.ct.gov/deep/news-releases/news-releases---2024/deep-warns-of-extreme-fire-danger-in-connecticut>

Incident Summary

At 07:26 on October 21, 2024, the Region 3 Coordinator was alerted via the Hartford County Fire Coordinator internal chat of a large brush fire in Berlin – which became known as the Hawthorne fire. The Hawthorne fire actively burned for weeks, consuming 127 acres. Due to extremely dry conditions, multiple red flag warning days, and abnormally warm weather, dozens more fires ignited throughout the state. As of 11/14, 181 fires have been reported ranging in size. As fire numbers peaked, the SEOC was partially activated to support response efforts. Since then, the SEOC has scaled back from Partial Activation to virtual Enhanced Monitoring. The SEOC is maintaining current posture of virtual Enhanced Monitoring. *Rain is expected throughout the day tomorrow, 11/21 with 0.75 – 1.25 inches of rain.*

DEMHS Regional Office Summaries

Region	Critical Issues	Unmet Needs

Incident Overview

Situation Update

Major Fire Report

Hawthorne Fire	Progress is being made at the Hawthorne Fire with resources from DEEP, Quebec, Green Mountain, and California. CA Groveland Hotshot team returned to assist with fire response on 11/4. On site teams will be patrolling hot spots while monitoring high winds. The current size of the fire is 127 acres. Crews continue to hold the line, U.S. Forest Service IC on scene at staging area. Fire status has been updated to mop up and patrol. There was a stakeholder/residents meeting 11/7, FDNY liaison in attendance. Waiting for FEMA determination on the end of the incident period for the Hawthorne fire. Fire is 95% contained. Email submitted to FEMA R1 agreeing with recommendation for end of incident period to be Sunday 11/10. DEMHS received official notification today, 11/20 from FEMA confirming the end of the incident period today as 11/10.
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Out of State Support

Active:

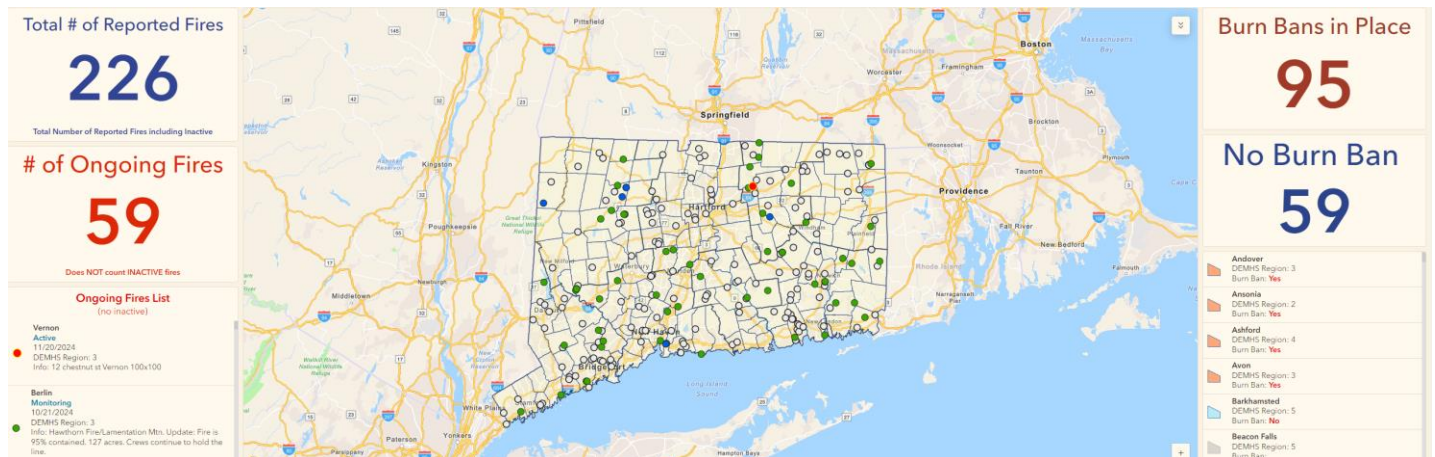
- Idaho/Oregon Firefighting 20-member crew – estimated demob date 11/22, available to extend another week if needed
- NE Fire Compact IMT – demob date Friday, 11/22
- Quebec module, arrived 11/17 – will remain in state for 14 days
- 2nd Quebec module to arrive Saturday 11/23
- Maine – remote financial tracking support

Demobilized:

Maine Forest Service, Rhode Island, New Hampshire Forest & Lands, South Carolina, White Mountain (New Hampshire-Federal), NYFD IMT, Green Mountain Vermont – Opps section chief, U.S. Forest Service Type III ICT, CA Groveland Hotshot crew, Quebec team, Wes Hatch - Maine

Link to access all reported fire locations/status prior to this Sit Rep:

<https://demhs-geolab.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/1b8674cfb65a40a39e850a18eb462212>



For consistency purposes, fires will be described in 3 different ways:

- **ACTIVE:** Dedicated resources are on scene
- **MOP UP & PATROL:** Searching for and extinguishing any remaining hot spots in a burned area
- **MONITORING:** No hotspots or smoke detected. Periodic patrols conducted until rain or snow eliminates heat sources
- **INACTIVE:** Fires that have been in Monitoring phase for more than 10 days

New Reported Fires/Change in Status – Since 11/18 Sit Rep

Region 1 – Reported fires:

Region 2 – Reported fires:

Region 3 – Reported fires:

- New: Vernon, Chestnut St. 100x100 - ACTIVE

Region 4 – Reported Fires:

Region 5 – Reported fires:

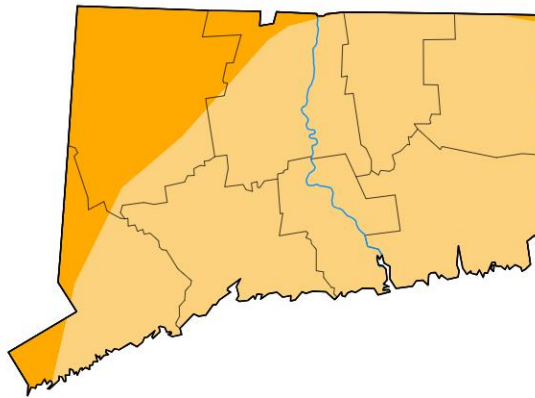


- New: Southbury, West Purchase Rd., .1ac - MONITORING
- New: Southbury, Scatacook Rd., .1 ac. – MONITORING
- New: Sharon, Woods Rd. & Skiff Mountain Rd. 50x100 – MOP UP & PATROL

From U.S. Drought Monitor [Connecticut | U.S. Drought Monitor](#)

Map released: Thurs. November 14, 2024

Data valid: November 12, 2024 at 7 a.m. EST



Intensity

- None
- D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- D1 (Moderate Drought)
- D2 (Severe Drought)
- D3 (Extreme Drought)
- D4 (Exceptional Drought)
- No Data

Authors

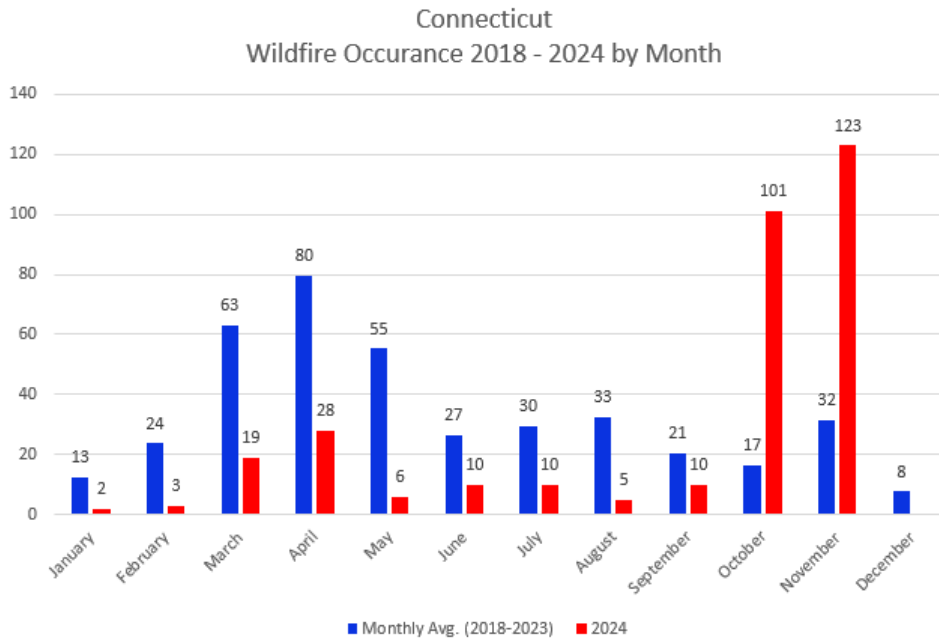
United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):

[Richard Tinker](#), NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands Author(s):

[Tsegaye Tadesse](#), National Drought Mitigation Center

UPDATED CHART: Historical Data for fires in CT: Blue: Average # of fires for 2018 – 2023 & Red: 2024



*November 2024 # of fires (123) is for fires from 11/1 – 11/15

State Response Actions

Incident Action Plan

- Daily internal state coordination calls will scale back to once daily on weekdays only, at 15:30
- Once daily situation reports will be sent in the evening (weekdays only), after 1530 call

- Maintain State Staging area and Incident Command Post at DOT Campus in Newington
- DEEP continues to leverage Northeastern Forest Fire Protection Compact (NFFPC) as primary method to request mutual aid resources to support incidents.
- DEMHS will continue to monitor unmet needs requests for potential EMAC or IEMG mutual aid requests if NFFPC is unable to fill.
- DEMHS staff continue to collaborate with DEEP to accurately track and plot GIS fire data/information.
- Primary communication will be Microsoft Teams Chat and Fire Coordination Group through Everbridge; convene group on meeting if needed.
- Large fire in Great Barrington, MA has led to strong smoke smell, leading to dispatch centers receiving calls of concern. DEEP/DEMHS posted on socials for awareness.
- DEMHS/DEEP issued a memo to Fire Department Chief re: expenses incurred due to the ongoing statewide fire response
- [As the incident period for the Hawthorne Fire has officially ended, DEMHS/DEEP will continue to discuss and collaborate on the FMAG required documentation.](#)

State Agency Situational Reports

Agency / Taskforce	Critical Information
CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	<p>Providing statewide incident response and management to reported wildfires.</p> <p>Will be taking over IMT upon the departure of the NE Fire Compact Crew, depending on fire conditions/forecast will potentially be requesting an additional module of 10 for additional fire response support. An additional module from Quebec will be arriving on Saturday 11/23.</p>
CT Department of Transportation	<p>Supporting with logistics and monitoring impacts to state roads.</p> <p>ICP will demob from Newington campus starting this weekend and will be completely demobilized on Monday 11/25.</p>
Fire Service ESF-4	Monitoring fires and deployed local resources throughout the state.
Division of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications	<p>Standing by to support with interoperability and communications support as requested.</p> <p>DSET/CTS continues to supply the ICP with portable radios supporting the out of state crews as needed.</p>
Everbridge	Everbridge representatives continue to provide assistance with alert and warning capabilities as requested.
Eversource	Eversource is available in the event there is a requirement to shut down power lines.



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