



**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: **M - MONITORING**  
Published: November 26, 2024  
WebEOC Incident Name: Incident 2024-25-24 Statewide Forest Fire Coordination  
Operational Period: October 21, 2024 – November 26, 2024

**Current Declarations**

10/24/24 – FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) Declaration approved for Hawthorne Fire	<a href="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">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</a>
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	<a href="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">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</a>
Governor Executive Order No. 24.3 Extending Deadline for Volunteer Fire Departments to Apply for Compensation in Response to Recent Fire Weather Conditions	<a href="https://portal.ct.gov/governor/news/press-releases/2024/11-2024/governor-lamont-signs-executive-order-extending-deadline-for-volunteer-fire-departments?language=en_US">https://portal.ct.gov/governor/news/press-releases/2024/11-2024/governor-lamont-signs-executive-order-extending-deadline-for-volunteer-fire-departments?language=en_US</a>

**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](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 Connecticut under category D2 – Severe Drought except for southeastern New London County which remains under category D1 – Moderate Drought.

**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 11/22, 227 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. *As conditions have improved and there is no longer a significant fire threat, posture will change to monitoring and routine operations will resume. The virtual SEOC will be terminated as well as the daily call and situation report. Should conditions change, DEMHS has the infrastructure to rapidly stand-up communications channels and engage stakeholders. Additionally, DEEP has lifted the fire ban and the Governor’s emergency declaration will be terminated effective December 2, 2024. If any fires occur, these should be reported through normal communication channels. This will be the final situation report for this incident.*

**DEMHS Regional Office Summaries**

	CRITICAL ISSUES	
	UNMET NEEDS	
	CRITICAL ISSUES	
	UNMET NEEDS	
	CRITICAL ISSUES	
	UNMET NEEDS	
	CRITICAL ISSUES	

	UNMET NEEDS	
	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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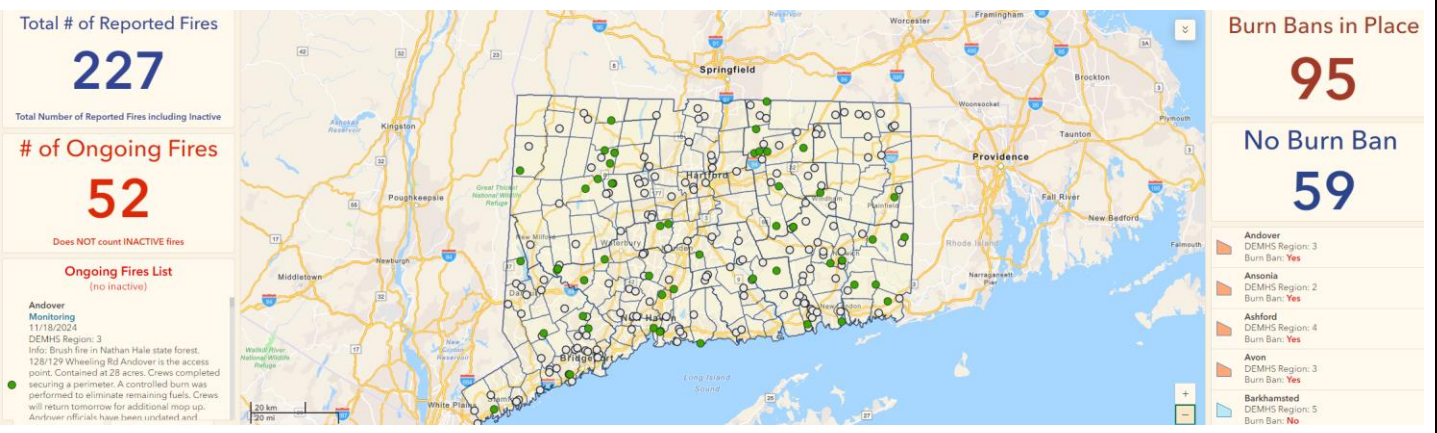
Out of State Support

**Active:**

- All out of state mutual aid has demobilized.

**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, NE Fire Compact IMT, Idaho/Oregon Firefighting crew, Quebec module, Maine remote financial tracking

**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:**

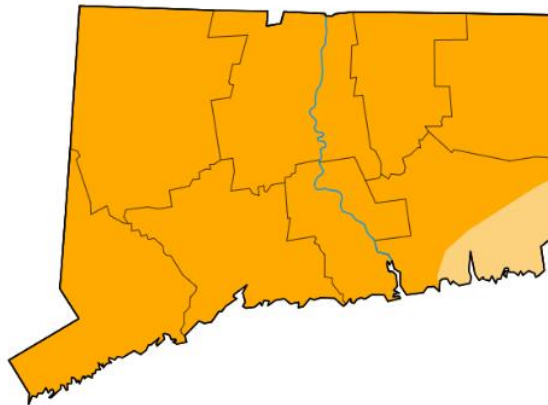
- **ACTIVE:** Dedicated resources are on scene
- **MOP UP & PATROL:** Searching for and extinguishing any remaining hot spots in a burned area
- **MONITORING:** No hotspots or smoke detected. Periodic patrols conducted until rain or snow eliminates heat sources
- **INACTIVE:** Fires that have been in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

**No New Reported Fires/Change in Status – Since 11/22 Sit Rep**

- Region 1 – Reported fires:**
- Region 2 – Reported fires:**
- Region 3 – Reported fires:**
- Region 4 – Reported Fires:**
- Region 5 – Reported fires:**

Map released: Thurs. November 21, 2024

Data valid: November 19, 2024 at 7 a.m. EST



**Intensity**

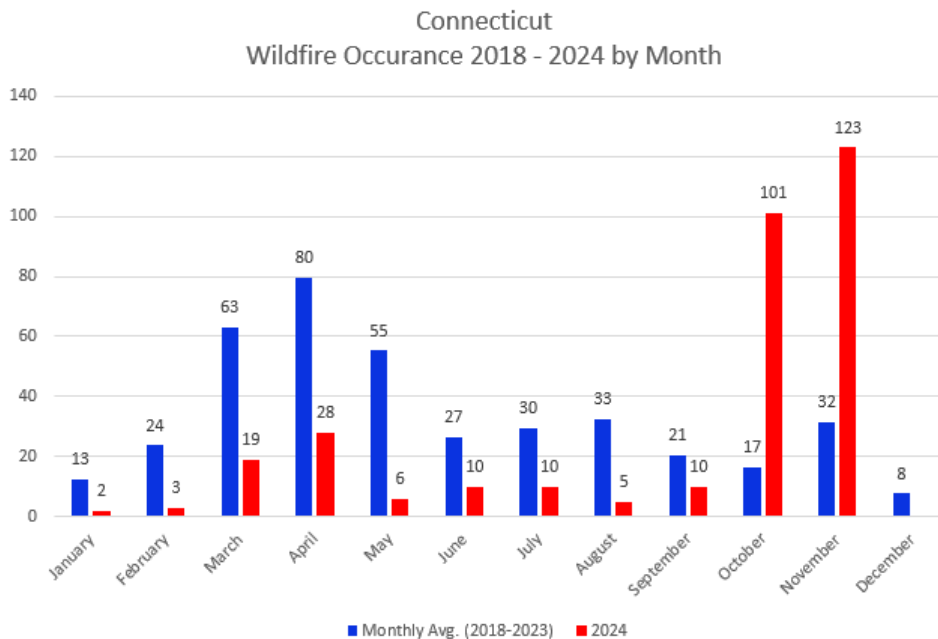
- None
- D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- D1 (Moderate Drought)
- D2 (Severe Drought)
- D3 (Extreme Drought)
- D4 (Exceptional Drought)
- No Data

**Authors**

United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):  
[Richard Tinker](#), NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands Author(s):  
[Richard Heim](#), NOAA/NCEI

**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**

- As the incident period for the Hawthorne Fire has officially ended, DEMHS/DEEP will continue to discuss and collaborate on the FMAG required documentation.
- Return SEOC to Monitoring – Routine Operations level
- Demobilize Fire Coordination TEAMS VSEOC

**State Agency Situational Reports**

**Agency / Taskforce**

**Critical Information**

CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

Statewide Burn Ban on Public Lands lifted:  
<https://portal.ct.gov/deep/news-releases/news-releases---2024/deep-lifts-statewide-burn-ban-on-public-lands-it-administers>

Fire Service ESF-4

Will share messaging re: lifting of burn ban with Fire Service.





<b>Report Produced by:</b>	Lady Mendoza
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