



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: **P - PARTIAL ACTIVATION**
Published: November 6, 2024, Morning
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
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

Pending Declarations

Exploring potential for expanding FMAG to cover additional fires throughout the state.

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. Since then, several additional brush fires have been reported throughout the state. Partial activation of the EOC was moved up from Monday 10/28 to Sunday, 10/27 starting at 7am. Staff are onsite at the EOC and continue to coordinate with Incident Command and other resources combating fires throughout the state. As of 1500 10/27, the Incident Command Post has relocated to DOT Newington campus. Informational campaigns on fire safety best practices are ongoing. The GIS dashboard tracking fires and local burn bans, (hyperlinked under the map picture) is now smart phone compatible. With temperatures dropping, outreach to local and state partners regarding cold weather protocols and fire safety will be conducted. GIS mapping of all fires and burn bans continue with a change in fire tracking - fires that have been in Monitoring phase for more than 10 days will be labeled 'Inactive' but will still be listed on the dashboard, as more fires cross the 10-day threshold and move to Inactive, the number listed of ongoing fires will be lower. With out of state resources demobilization dates approaching and the western wildfire season basically concluded, wildfire firefighting resources are scarce but the search for additional resources continues. The SEOC will remain partially activated for the statewide fire response coordination and will be partially activated for the election. Bear sightings have taken place at some of the fire locations, may be attributed to increased activity in the area. **November 6th, 2024, is a red flag day.**

DEMHS Regional Office Summaries

Region	Critical Issues	Unmet Needs
	CRITICAL ISSUES	
	UNMET NEEDS	
	CRITICAL ISSUES	Hawthorne Fire – Berlin/Meriden
	UNMET NEEDS	
	CRITICAL ISSUES	Hawthorne Fire – Berlin/Meriden
	UNMET NEEDS	
	CRITICAL ISSUES	Rocky Neck State Park Fire, East Lyme - Oswegatchie
	UNMET NEEDS	
	CRITICAL ISSUES	



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.
Rocky Neck Fire	On Saturday 11/2 the California Groveland Hotshot 20-member team was deployed to assist with the Rocky Neck State Park Fire in East Lyme. They remain on scene on 11/3. DEEP and local resources will resume operations at Rocky Neck on Monday 11/4 morning. 20 DEEP members and 5 East Lyme Fire Department members are on site today, 11/4 and are actively mopping up. The park remains closed until further notice. Will continue to have twice daily ICP meetings. DEEP monitoring Air Quality in the area. 28 total responders at site today, made progress on north side of the fire (most challenging area), if progress continues, the fire will be in Monitoring phase by Wednesday with a potential partial opening of the park on Thursday. There will be less responders on site tomorrow 11/5. DEEP and Local resources are on site, continued smoke and smoldering in some locations. Current size of the fire is 44 acres. 10–12-foot mop up perimeter, Quebec crew will be on scene November 6, 2024. Fire status is Mop up and Patrol as of November 6, 2024.
Oswegatchie Hills – Memorial Park Drive Fire	New start 1 acre fire reported yesterday afternoon. Local FD, DEEP crews, and Region 4 Coordinator deployed to the scene. Quebec 20 person and California 20 person crews dispatched to assist. Mop up started Tuesday evening. DEEP patrolled overnight with no crossing of the lines. Today crew returned with DEEP type 6 engine, East Lyme FD, and Quebec team. Updated to approx.. 2 acres. Crew are almost done with building line around fire and will work until approx. 1630 today.

Out of State Support

Active:

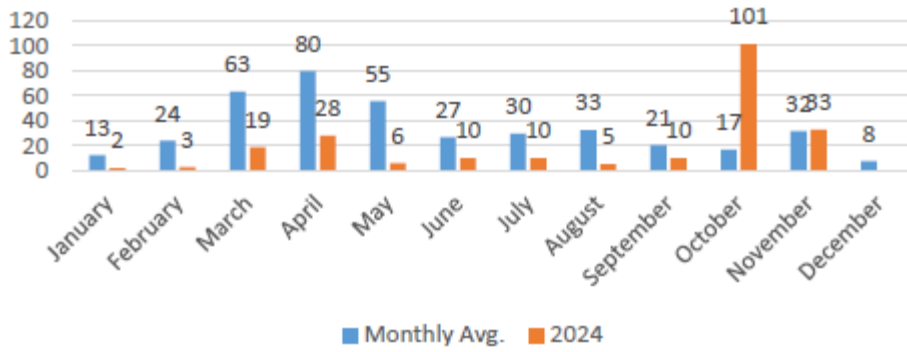
- CA Groveland Hotshot 20-member team – estimated demob date 11/17
- New York City Fire Department – Incident Management Team (IMT) – estimated demob date 11/10
- Quebec 20-member team – estimated demob date 11/19
- Green Mountain (Vermont) – 1 operations section chief – estimated demob date 11/17
- U.S Forest Service Type III ICT arrived today, 11/5 to take over command of the Hawthorne Fire as IC Harris transitions out
- Idaho Firefighting 20-member Crew enroute – will arrive on scene Saturday morning
- [NE Fire Compact IMT to replace FDNY IMT, shadow day on Saturday, Nov. 9, 2024, and assuming control on Sunday, Nov. 10, 2024.](#)

Demobilized:

Maine Forest Service, Rhode Island, New Hampshire Forest & Lands, South Carolina, White Mountain (New Hampshire-Federal)

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

Connecticut Wildfire Occurance 2018 - Current by Month



CT Fire Status Dashboard

Total # of Reported Fires: **139**

Total Number of Reported Fires including Inactive

Total Reported Fires List
(includes inactive fires)

East Lyme Active
DEMHS Region: 4
Info: Rocky Neck State Park. 11/5 Update: Good progress today - mop up operations with DEEP and East Lyme FD, focusing on North and West sides respectively. 25-50' mop up zone from the lines. DEEP FCO and Park Management now looking to the weekend for possible park reopening (possibly partial reopening). This will be revisited and decided on prior to the weekend. Possible DEEP returning with a crew tomorrow - East Lyme FD resources not necessary. No overnight watch for this evening. Status: MONITORING Total Acres: 43.9

of Ongoing Fires: **102**

Does NOT count INACTIVE fires

Ongoing Fires List
(no inactive)

East Lyme Active
DEMHS Region: 4
Info: Rocky Neck State Park. 11/5 Update: Good progress today - mop up operations with DEEP and East Lyme FD, focusing on North and West sides respectively. 25-50' mop up zone from the lines. DEEP FCO and Park Management now looking to the weekend for possible park reopening (possibly partial reopening). This will be revisited and decided on prior to the weekend. Possible DEEP returning with a crew tomorrow - East Lyme FD resources not necessary. No overnight watch for this evening. Status: MONITORING Total Acres: 43.9

Burn Bans in Place: **92**

No Burn Ban: **62**

- Andover: DEMHS Region: 3, Burn Ban: **Yes**
- Ansonia: DEMHS Region: 2, Burn Ban: **Yes**
- Ashford: DEMHS Region: 4, Burn Ban: **Yes**
- Avon: DEMHS Region: 3, Burn Ban: **Yes**
- Barkhamsted: DEMHS Region: 5, Burn Ban: **No**
- Beacon Falls: DEMHS Region: 5, Burn Ban: **No**
- Berlin: Burn Ban: **No**

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

New Reported Fires/Change in Status – 11/6/2024 – Morning Report

Region 1 – Reported fires:

Change: Greenwich - near weigh station – **MONITORING**

New: Greenwich - 5 East Byway – **MONITORING**

Change: Easton - 100 Beers Road - **MONITORING**

Region 2 – Reported fires:

Change: Hawthorne Fire – Berlin/Meriden – **MOP UP & PATROL**

New: Bethany, Fairwood Rd at Falls Rd. – **MONITORING**

Region 3 – Reported fires:

Change: Hawthorne Fire – Berlin/Meriden – **MOP UP & PATROL**

Region 4 – Reported Fires:



Change: Rocky Neck State Park Fire – MOP UP & PATROL

Change: East Lyme - Oswegatchie #1 - **MONITORING**

New: New London Apartment Fire, 187 Huntington Street building fire local resources responded - **MONITORING**

New – East Lyme - Oswegatchie #2 “Memorial Park Drive Fire” - MOP UP & PATROL

Region 5 – Reported fires:

New: New Milford 4 Rabbit Lane - **MONITORING**

New: Colebrook fire reported last night, November 5th, 2024, nothing showing – **MONITORING**

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Map released: Thurs. October 31, 2024

Data valid: October 29, 2024 at 8 a.m. EDT

Intensity

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

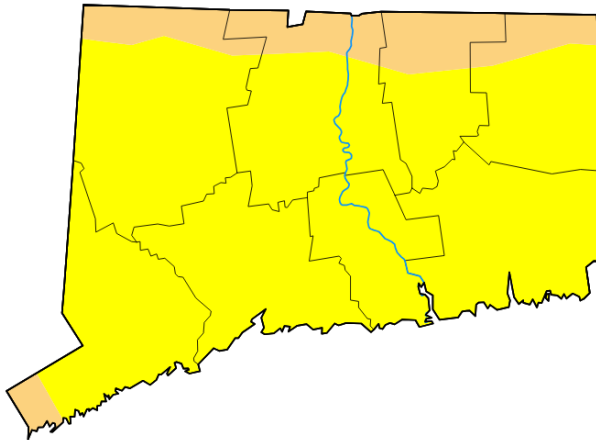
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From U.S. Drought Monitor [Connecticut](#) | [U.S. Drought Monitor](#)

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Incident Action Plan

- Daily internal state coordination calls will resume regular schedule of twice daily, at 08:00 & 15:30
- Twice daily situation reports will also resume, morning/evening
- SEOC Partially activated on Sunday, 10/27 at 07:00, will remain activated this week 11/4 from 0730 until 1700
- Maintain State Staging area and Incident Command Post for Hawthorne Fire at DOT Campus in Newington
- Implement and/or maintain Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) and Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFR) in areas of aerial firefighting operations – no air operations scheduled, and no aviation assets are on standby
- 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.
- Continue to research FMAG administration
- Developed external messaging targeted at homeless population and agencies that serve them regarding fire safety and fire bans – has been shared with stakeholders and posted on socials
- Support daily 7PM media briefings at Newington Command Post
- [Maintain footprint in Newington, but begin demobilization plan](#)
- [Determine need for SEOC staffing over weekend and build schedule](#)

State Agency Situational Reports

Agency / Taskforce	Critical Information
CT National Guard	All CTNG resources demobilized 11/1
CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	Providing statewide incident response and management to reported wildfires. DEEP maintains statewide burn ban (outdoor grills, firepits, campfires, etc.) at all state parks, forests, and wildlife management areas. Coordinated with National Park

	<p>Service to update alerts for Appalachian Trail to advise hikers and campers of burn bans in place in parks. Regional burn ban in place for the Appalachian Train. https://appalachiantrail.org/trail-updates/md-me-fire-bans/</p> <p>Regular Daily Press Briefing scheduled for 1900 at Hawthorne Command Post. Will be doing daily updates on social media.</p> <p>Requesting additional out of state 20-person initial attack team to support immediate needs this week. Type III IMT request through compact, will be team made up from Quebec, Maine and New Brunswick. A request has also been submitted for a Type 3 Incident Commander – request has been made through the Northeast Forest Fire Compact (NJ filling position until weekend).</p>
CT Department of Transportation	<p>Supporting with logistics and monitoring impacts to state roads.</p> <p>Supporting State Staging Area and Incident Command Post located at their Newington Campus.</p> <p>DOT has drone team if needed to support operations (no IR capability)</p>
Fire Service ESF-4	<p>Communication sent to all fire chiefs and coordinators concerning terminology to use for consistency purposes.</p>
Division of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications	<p>Supporting with interoperability and communications support on scene at Hawthorne Fire Incident Command Post. Will demobilize on Sunday 11/10</p> <p>Everbridge representatives providing virtual support with issuance of WEAs and other emergency or routine municipal public messaging through CT ALERT.</p>
Eversource	<p>Eversource is available in the event there is a requirement to shut down power lines.</p>

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