



WILDLAND FIRES

THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE

Changes in social and environmental factors, such as increased development in the wildland-urban interface and the impacts of climate change on our forests, are raising the frequency and severity of wildland fires in the Northeast.

Although northeastern forests are less prone to large-scale wildfires compared to the West, recent events highlight the need for adaptive fire management. For instance, the 2023 Quebec fires saw 48 large-scale events—30 times the typical season—including the largest fire on record. Similarly, a 2024 drought triggered the Northeast’s most significant fall fire season, with destructive wildfires across New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Vermont.

THE WILDLAND FIRE PROGRAM

The Forests, Parks and Recreation (FPR) Wildland Fire team consists of three full-time employees, all of whom have completed advanced training in wildland fire response and suppression. The team is led by a State Forest Fire Supervisor and supported by two Wildland Fire Specialists. They provide statewide fire prevention, suppression, and response in collaboration with municipal fire departments. The Wildland Fire staff also train and support Town Forest Fire Wardens, who oversee open burning in their communities. Additionally, the team conducts prescribed burns on state lands for habitat restoration and maintenance and monitors fire danger daily during fire season.

The program offers wildland fire training to Vermont firefighters through the Vermont Fire Academy, local fire departments, and technical schools. It also enables Vermont fire departments to purchase wildland firefighting personal protective equipment at a reduced cost.



WILDLAND FIRE AT A GLANCE

- The Daily Fire Danger Forecast reached over **1,000** Vermonters between March and November, helping communities reduce risk by limiting burns and increasing awareness.
- FPR Wildland Fire staff trained **460** Vermont firefighters.
- **31** Vermont towns participated in the 50/50 Gear Grant Purchase Program.
- **22** FPR employees hold red cards (National Wildfire Training Certification).
- **96** fires burned **179** acres in Vermont in 2024.

Sign up for the Daily Fire Danger Forecast at VTforest.com

NORTHEASTERN FOREST FIRE PROTECTION COMPACT

Vermont is a member of the Northeastern Forest Fire Protection Compact (COMPACT), which facilitates effective prevention and control of forest fires across the Northeastern United States and neighboring regions of Canada.

COMPACT enables members to respond to fires exceeding the capacity of any single member by facilitating mutual aid through information, technology, and resource sharing.



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