



FORESTS, PARKS & RECREATION

VERMONT



AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

VERMONT WILDLAND FIRE PROGRAM

Dan Dillner, State Forest Fire Supervisor



WELCOME



Wildland Fire Program

Wildland Fire Program Overview

2024 Accomplishments

Fire Response

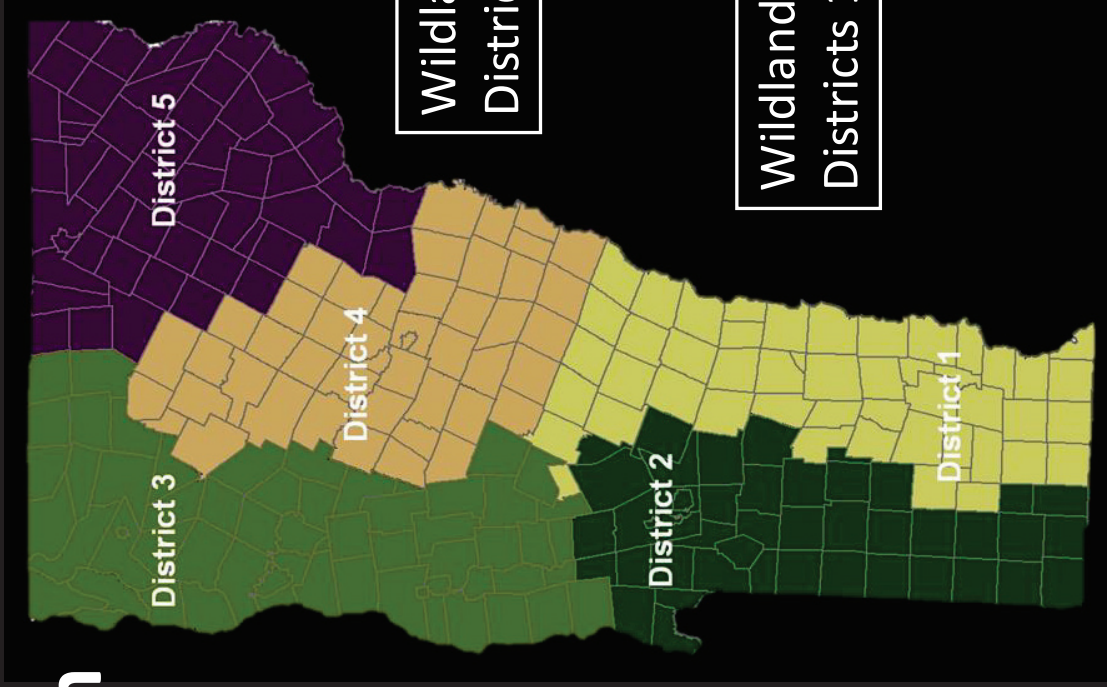
2024 Fires

Future Program Goals

Wildland Fire Program

Staff:

Forest Fire Supervisor
District 3: Dan Dillner



Wildland Fire Specialist
District 4 & 5: Devin Healy

Wildland Fire Specialist
Districts 1 & 2: Kelsey Zaengle

FPR Wildland Fire Program

Wildland Fire Education and Training

- 2024 Wildland Fire trainings – 460 students





FPR Wildland Fire Program

Fire Prevention

Town Forest Fire Warden

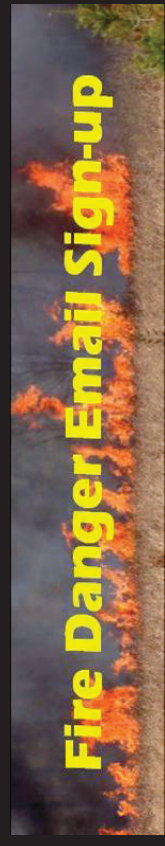
Outreach - In 2024, FPR held 40 Smokey Bear fire prevention events in 30 towns:

- State parks, fairs, libraries, schools, VFDs
- VT Lake Monsters Smokey birthday party – 2000 attendees!

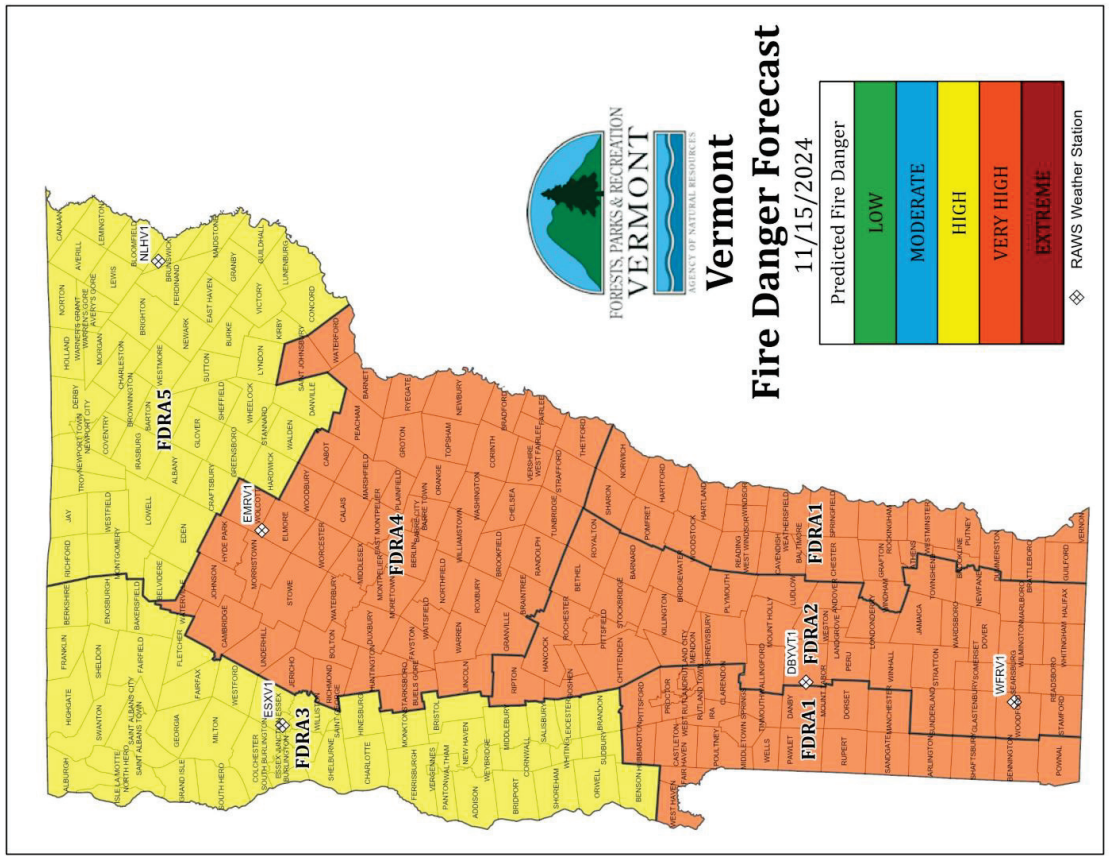
FPR Wildland Fire Program

FPR Daily Fire Danger Forecast

- Daily Fire Danger Forecast map
- Notification of red flag warnings
- Email list is currently 943 Vermonters



Fire Danger Email Sign-up



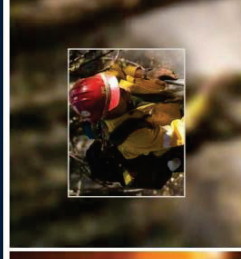
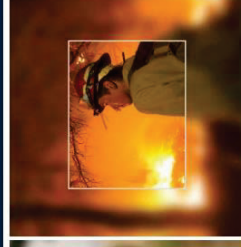
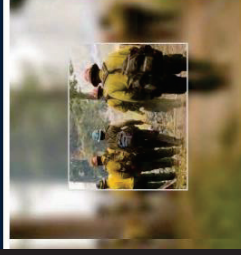
FPR Wildland Fire Program

Fire Equipment Purchasing Program:

- 50/50 PPE and Equipment Purchasing
 - 31 towns in 2024
 - \$58k total for rural fire departments.



Wildland Fire Equipment 2024



FPR Wildland Fire Program

Prescribed Fire

- Spring 2024: FPR staff assisted USFS with 13 units on the Green Mountain National Forest





Did you know that FPR staff respond to active wildfires?

What FPR provides:

- Expertise in fire behavior and suppression tactics
- Nationally certified firefighters for extended attack
- Specialized equipment
- Ability to order additional resources

FPR Wildland Fire Resources

FPR supports a team of wildland firefighters:

- 15 firefighters
- 6 Incident Management Team members
- 3 Fireline supervisors
- 23 staff nationally certified in 2024



3 Wildland Fire Response Vehicles

- High pressure wildland pump
- 2000-foot forestry hose
- Chain saw kit, drip torch, hand tools
- Communications

4 Extended Attack Trailers

- 2 high pressure wildland pumps
- 4000-foot forestry hose
- Mop-up kits, backpack pumps
- Chainsaw kit, drip torch
- Hand tools for 20-person crew



2024 Wildland Fire Response Requests - 9

Staff and Resources	# Days	Date	Town	Fire Name
1 FPR Staff	1	4/27/2024	Westford	Sapline Fire (2 Acres)
2 FPR Staff	2	6/20/2024	Leicester	Chandler Fire GMNF (0.1 Acres)
3 FPR Staff	2	9/24/2024	Groton	Bucket Fire (0.1 Acres)
2 FPR Staff	1	10/23/2024	Huntington	Sunrise Drive Fire (2.4 Acres)
2 FPR Staff	1	10/23/2024	Williston	Greenwood Lane Fire (0.83 Acres)
17 FPR Staff, USFS (UTV with 7), NHS (Engine with 2), State Hazmat Team	12	10/27/2024	Barnard	Morgan Road Fire (57 Acres)
2 FPR Staff	1	10/27/2024	Ludlow	East Lake Road Fire (16.5 Acres)
2 FPR Staff	1	11/9/2024	Brattleboro	Melchen Road Fire (10.5 Acres)
4 FPR Staff, USFS (UTV, Engine with 19 from WA, MT, local)	2	11/18/2024	Starksboro	Big Hollow (4.1 Acres)





FPR Wildland Fire Mutual Aid Resources

State resources ordered through VEM

- Army National Guard Helicopter

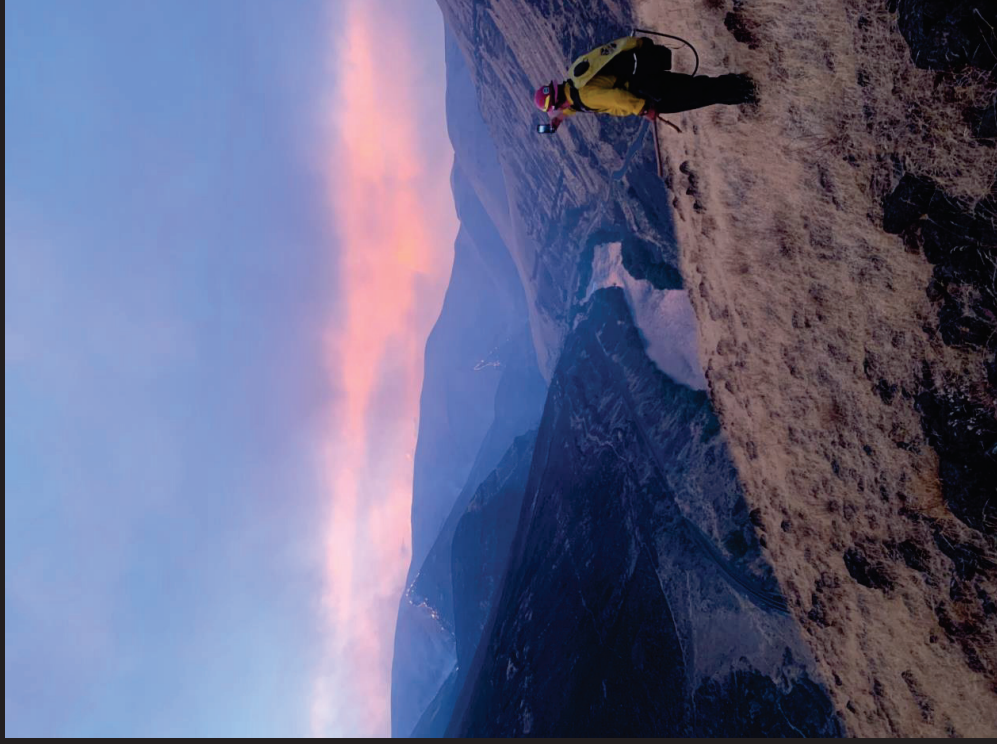
Additional resources ordered through Northeastern Interagency Coordination Center (NECC) in NH

- Green Mountain National Forest and White Mountain National Forest
- Compact Members



Northeast Forest Fire Protection Compact

- Mandate: Provide the means for member agencies to cope with fires that might be beyond the capabilities of a single member
- Established in 1949 following the devastating wildfires in Maine in 1947 that burned over 220,000 acres
- New England states, New York, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, Federal Agencies, and FDNY.



2024 FPR Resources Deployed

7 FPR staff were deployed to 20 different fires in California, Idaho, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington





Photo by Roy Lignard / MASS DCR

Vermont firefighters in Quebec in 2023

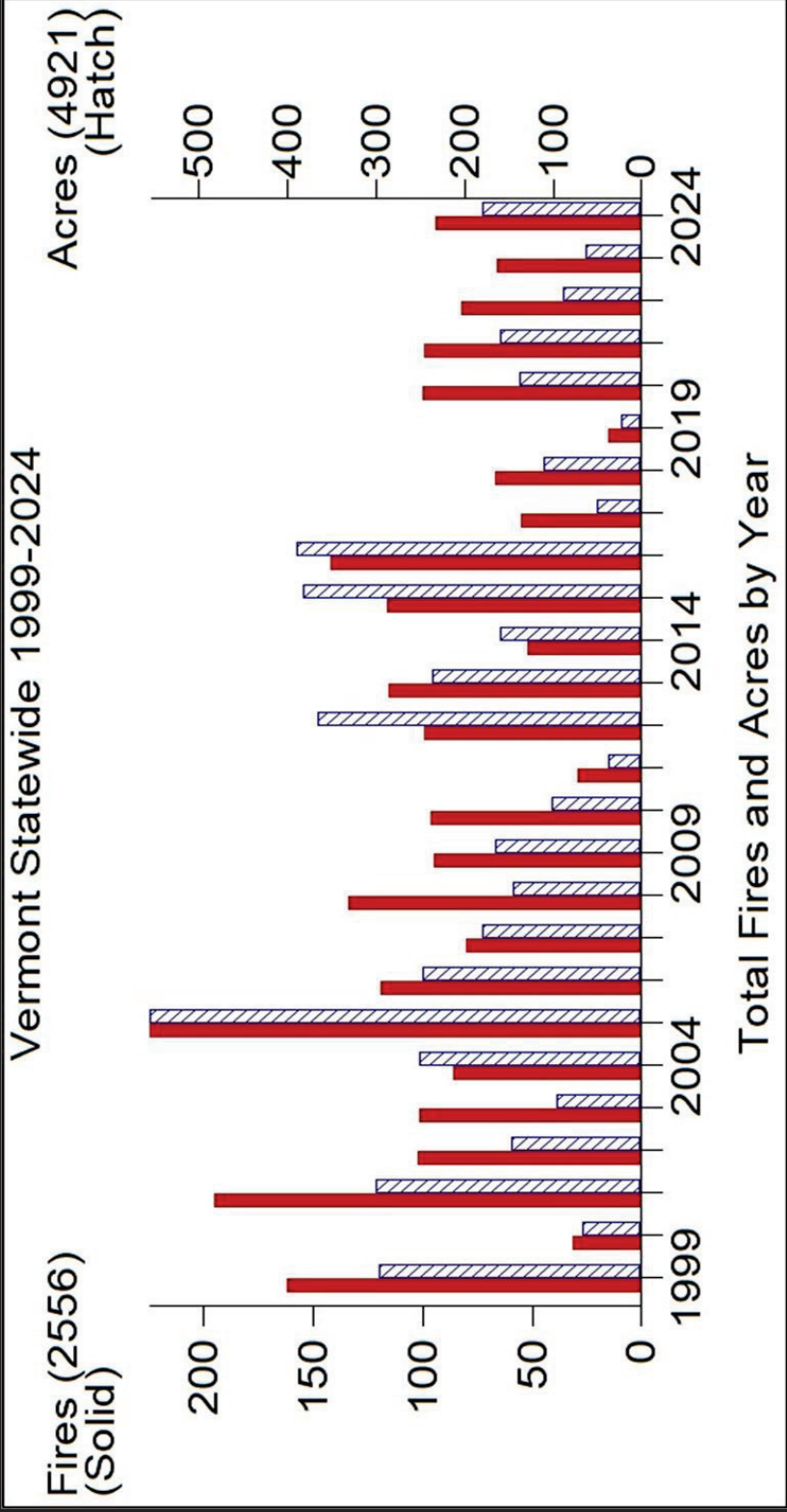


5 firefighters on 4
different crews.

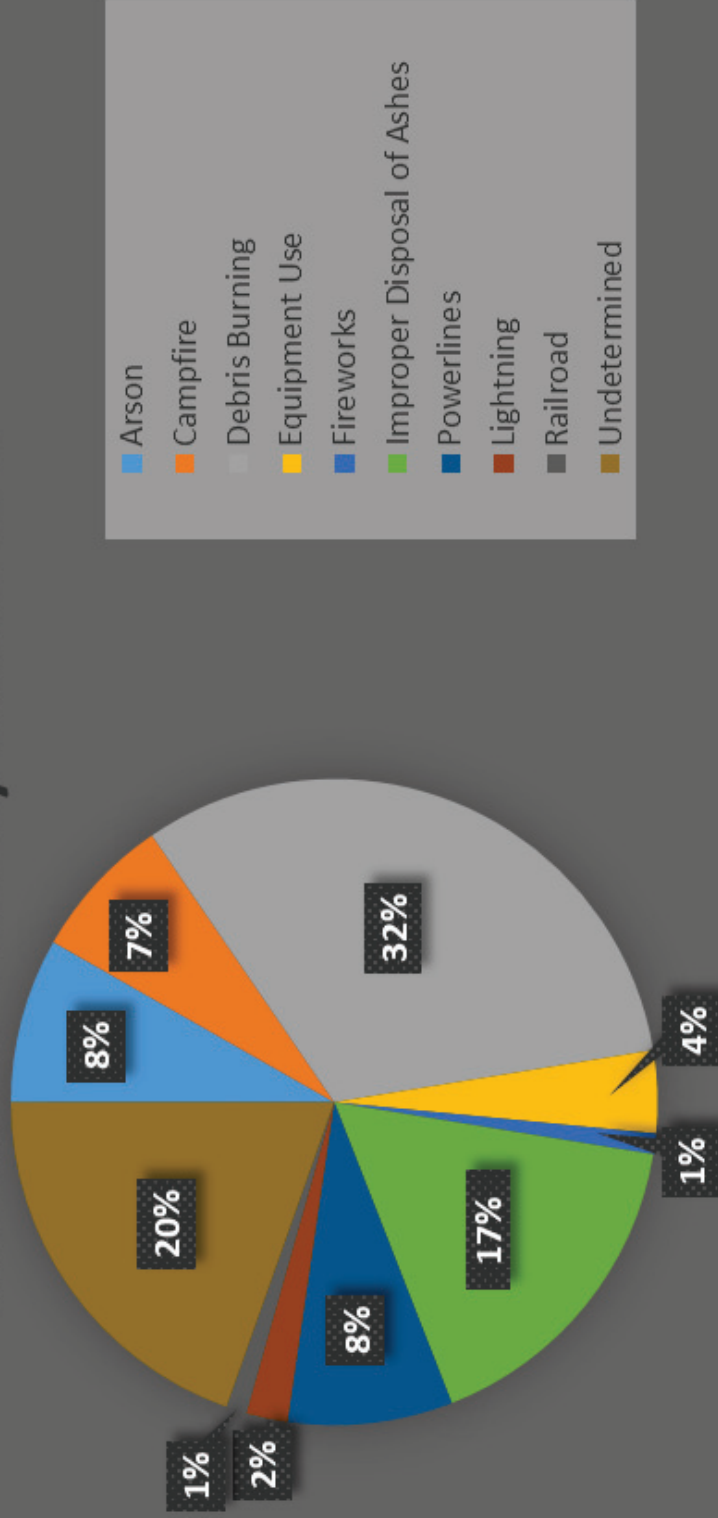


Total of 1100 hours
of work!

Vermont Wildfires



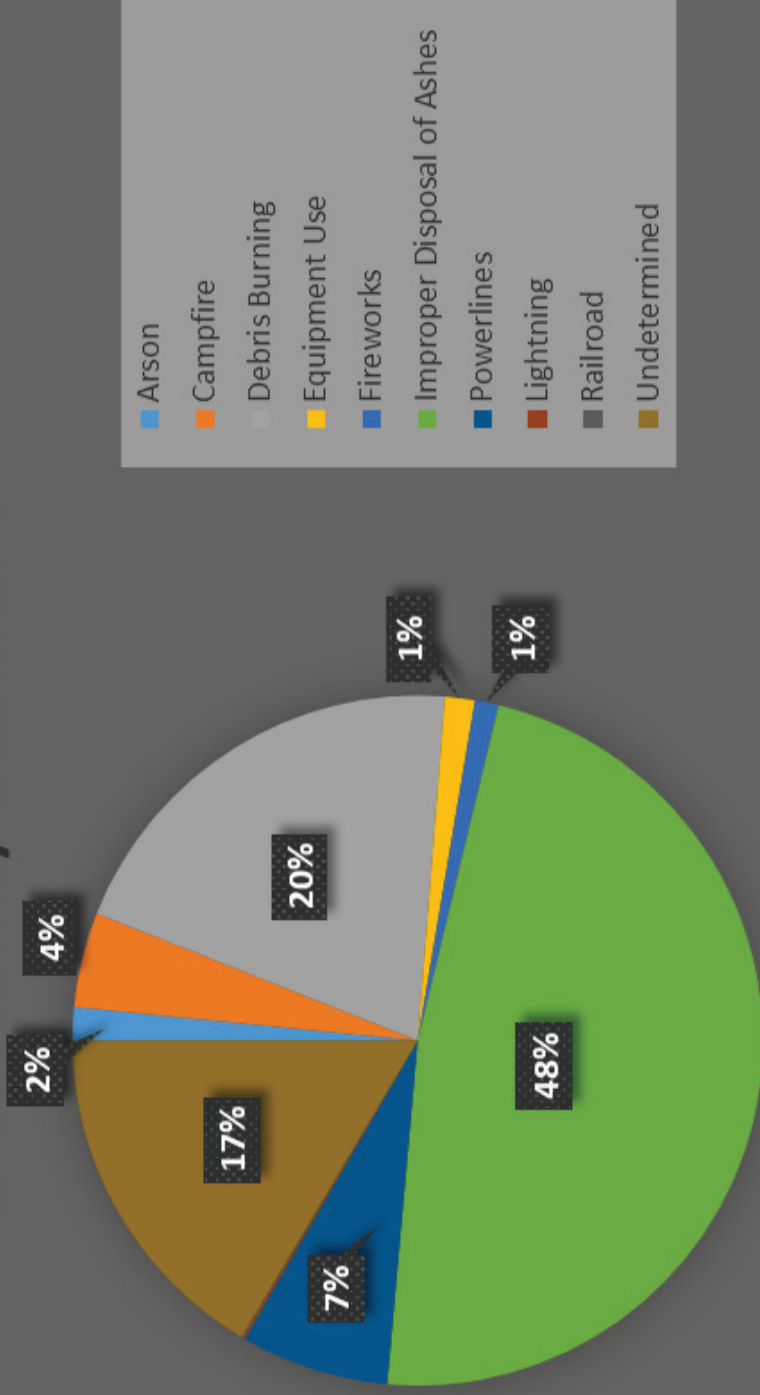
Number of Fires by Cause 2024



2024: 96 fires for 179 acres

10-Year Average: 81.1 fires for 156.7 acres

Total Acres by Cause 2024

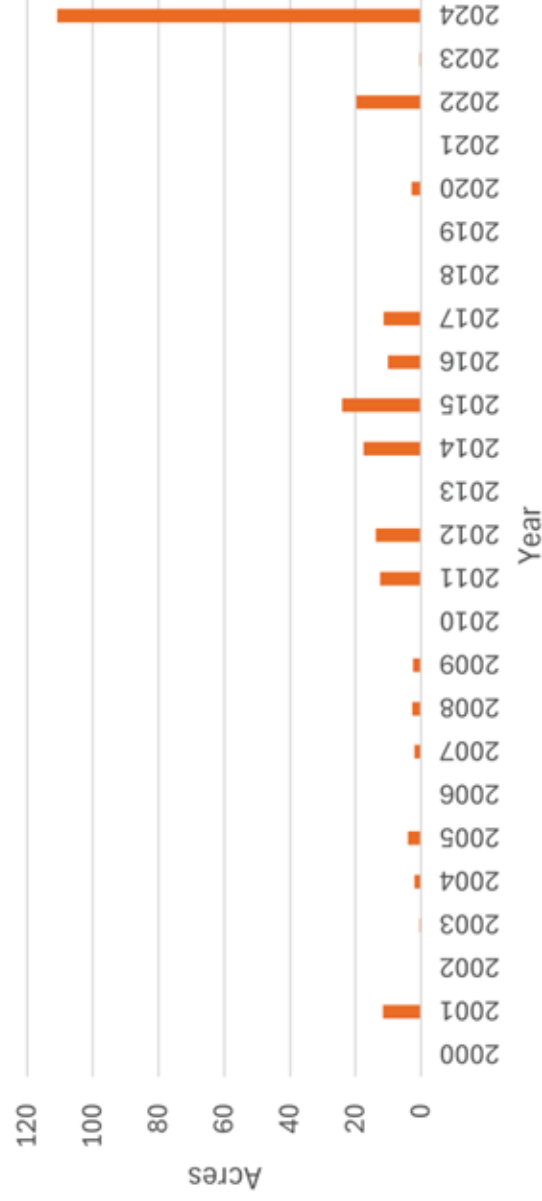


2024: 96 fires for 179 acres

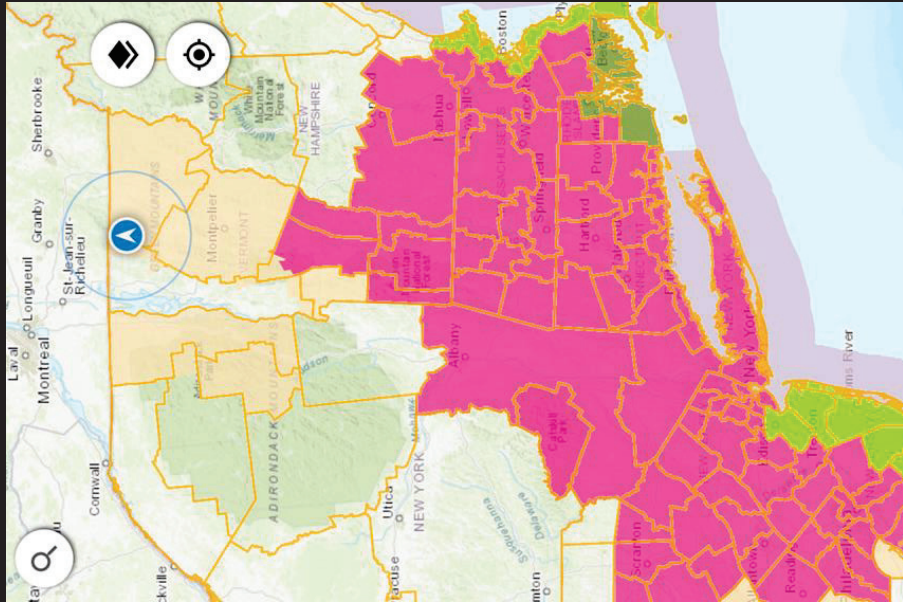
10-Year Average: 81.1 fires for 156.7 acres

Fall 2024:
38 fires for 110 acres
October and November 2024
acreage: 18x higher than the
previous 25-year average!

Total Acres Burned in October and November
(2000-2024)



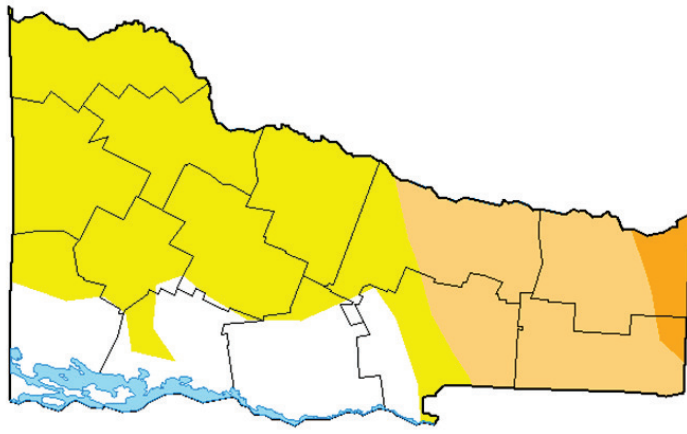
November 15, 2024









2024 Wildland Fire Season in Vermont	
Fun Facts	# Days
Statewide Wildfire Preparedness Level 4	14
Statewide Fire Danger Extreme **	2
Statewide Fire Danger Very High	13
Statewide Fire Danger High	25
Statewide Fire Danger Moderate	75
Red Flag Days	4
Debris Burning Ban (1st Since 2015)	30
VT-Alerts sent to Fire Wardens, Public	6

U.S. Drought Monitor Vermont

November 26, 2024
(Released Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2024)
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Intensity:

-  None
-  D0 Abnormally Dry
-  D1 Moderate Drought
-  D2 Severe Drought
-  D3 Extreme Drought
-  D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

David Simeral
Western Regional Climate Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Statewide Fire Danger in October

17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
L	M	M	H	V	H	V	M	H	V	E

Many eastern states were experiencing multiple catastrophic wildland fires at the same time, putting a strain on local and regional resources

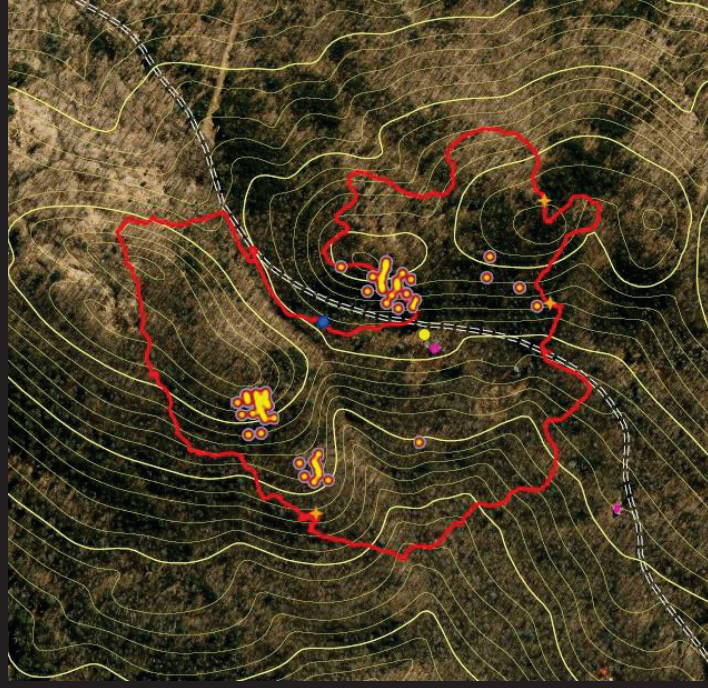
Firefighting resources were brought in from across the nation to meet the demand

There were 3 firefighter fatalities in the fall of 2024 responding to wildland fires in the northeast

Historically high fire activity year in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island—on the heels of a historically high fire activity year in Eastern Canada the year prior

Morgan Road Fire (October 27)

- 57 acres
- 2 structures lost



Fire Program Goals



Prepare for the impact of climate driven increases in fire activity



Continue development of plan for large fire response



Create emergency firefighter program and develop staff with fireline supervision qualifications



Purchase a wildland fire engine for in-state response, prescribed burn support, and interagency fire details



Expand use of prescribed fire for wildlife habitat and fuels maintenance

Questions?



Big Hollow Fire, Starksboro, November 18