



Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency Situational Awareness Statement # 15

Subject: Statewide Wildfire Operations
 Date/Time: November 12, 2024, 3:00 pm
Blue/italic text denotes updates since the previous SAS

Incident or Event Overview		
Situation		
<p>Fire activity continues across the Commonwealth as weather continues to favor wildfire development. <i>Most areas across the state received a brief period of precipitation overnight Sunday into early Monday morning, with rain amounts staying below 0.15". This quick moving system had no effect on suppressing the deep burning heat associated with ongoing fire perimeters. However, the light rain did prevent any new fires from expanding quickly and allowed existing fires to be better contained. This afternoon, gusty winds out of the northwest and sunny conditions resumed, drying surface fuels once again</i></p> <p><i>As of 1800 on 11/11, 6 active fires are currently receiving State Support.</i></p> <p><i>Fire statistics updated below, but last 24 hours very fluid as new fire activity emerges.</i></p> <p>Recent fire activity is summarized below:</p>		
Time Frame	Number of Fires	Acres Burnt:
YTD:	<i>1,036</i>	<i>2,081</i>
October:	<i>212</i>	<i>841</i>
November:	<i>261</i>	<i>696</i>
Last 24 Hours:	<i>50</i>	<i>27 (estimate)</i>
<p>Data provided by DCR Forest Fire Control & Forestry</p> <p><u><i>The National Weather Service, under guidance from DCR Forest Fire Control Staff has issued a RED FLAG WARNING for ALL of Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island tomorrow, Tuesday November 12, 2024 until 7:00.</i></u></p> <p>An increasing number of communities are now instituting burn bans at the local level. The continued leaf drop remains the number one challenge for fire crews in maintaining perimeter control around most fires where foliage has yet to completely drop.</p> <p>DCR Forest Fire Control and the Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts continue to emphasize the danger that snags and falling trees pose to firefighters. <i>Two firefighters in Massachusetts were hurt this past week due to falling trees. Two firefighters have also tragically lost their lives due to falling trees- one in New York and a second in Connecticut. The Commonwealth extends its sincerest condolences to the New York State and Connecticut Public Safety and Forestry Services.</i></p>		

The State Fire Marshal and FCAM continue to recommend to local fire chiefs to deny any fire-related permit requests and collaborate with local officials to prohibit any recreational fire activity. Fire chiefs have the authority to prohibit the use of open flames and other ignition sources in hazardous conditions, such as extreme drought or red-flag conditions, under Section 10.10.2 of the Massachusetts Comprehensive Fire Safety Code.

The State Fire Marshal has provided Fire Chiefs throughout the Commonwealth with guidance on implementing Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFR) as needed. A TFR restricts aircraft (including drones) from operating without permission in a certain area for a limited time and can be issued due to natural disasters such as wildfires and hurricanes.

https://www.faa.gov/uas/getting_started/temporary_flight_restrictions

Weather Update:

Red Flag conditions are in effect again today, with gusty northwesterly winds ranging from 9 to 18 mph, gusting up to 35-40 mph, and humidity levels between 40% and 50% this afternoon. These conditions will promote the rapid spread of both existing and new wildfires. Wind gusts will gradually subside overnight into Wednesday morning as a drier air mass moves into the region. From Wednesday through Friday, humidity levels will range between 25% and 35%, further drying out fuels and maintaining favorable conditions for wildfire activity, despite the decrease in wind speed.

Wind gusts will increase again on Friday. Combined with the low humidity, these conditions could trigger additional Red Flag warnings. A low-pressure system will retrograde offshore on Saturday, bringing a chance of spotty showers across the state. However, rainfall amounts are expected to be minimal, offering little relief to ongoing wildfire efforts.

Hazard Impacts/Potential Impacts

- Smoke impacts on residential areas and roadways.
- Falling trees and dead snags within burned areas, alongside other risks to firefighters.
- Loss of forest stock.
- Obstruction of roadways.
- Damage to buildings and infrastructure in burn areas.

Weather Forecast Overview

Watches, Warnings or Advisories for Massachusetts

Last updated at 2:45 PM on 11/12/2024

Red Flag Warning

11/12/2024 05:13 EST through 11/12/2024 18:00 EST

Western Franklin, MA; Eastern Franklin, MA; Northern Worcester, MA; Central Middlesex County, MA; Western Essex, MA; Eastern Essex, MA; Western Hampshire, MA; Western Hampden, MA; Eastern Hampshire, MA; Eastern Hampden, MA; Southern Worcester, MA; Western Norfolk, MA; Southeast Middlesex, MA; Suffolk, MA; Eastern Norfolk, MA; Northern Bristol, MA; Western Plymouth, MA; Eastern Plymouth, MA; Southern Bristol, MA; Southern Plymouth, MA; Barnstable, MA; Dukes, MA; Nantucket, MA; Northwest Middlesex County, MA

Red Flag Warning

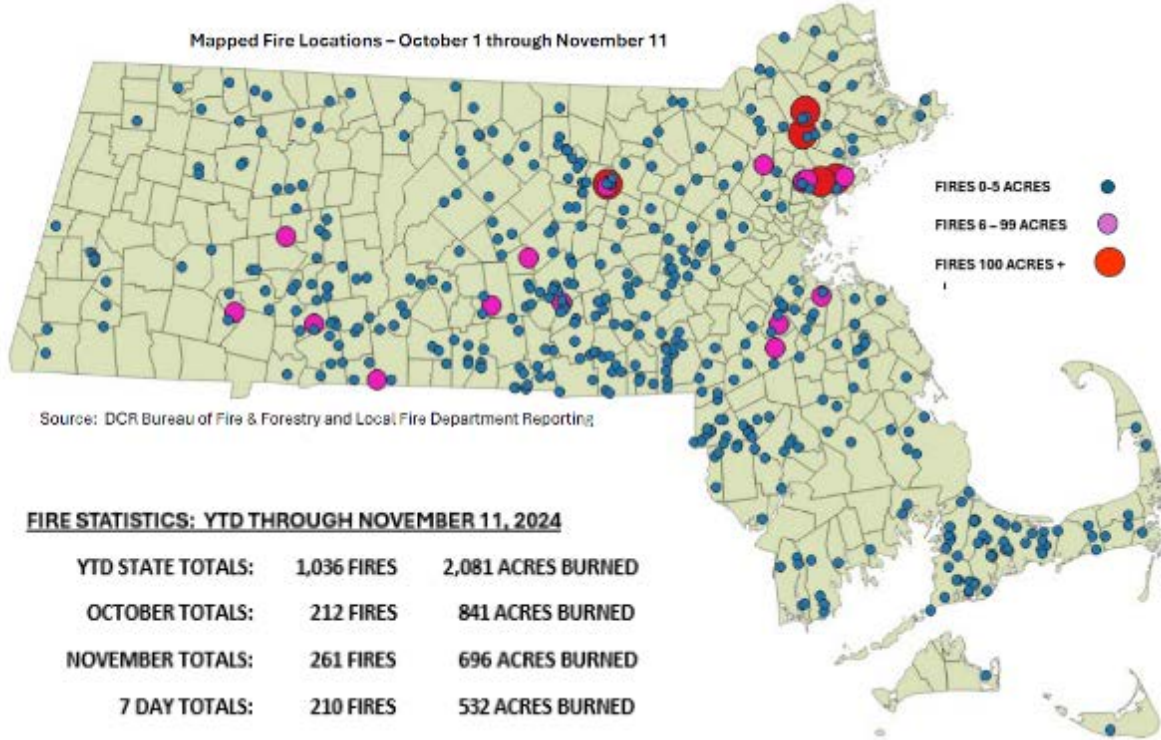
11/12/2024 03:25 EST through 11/12/2024 18:00 EST

Northern Berkshire, MA; Southern Berkshire, MA

More information available at <https://alerts.weather.gov/search?area=MA>

Weather Graphics

Mapped Fire Locations - October 1 through November 11

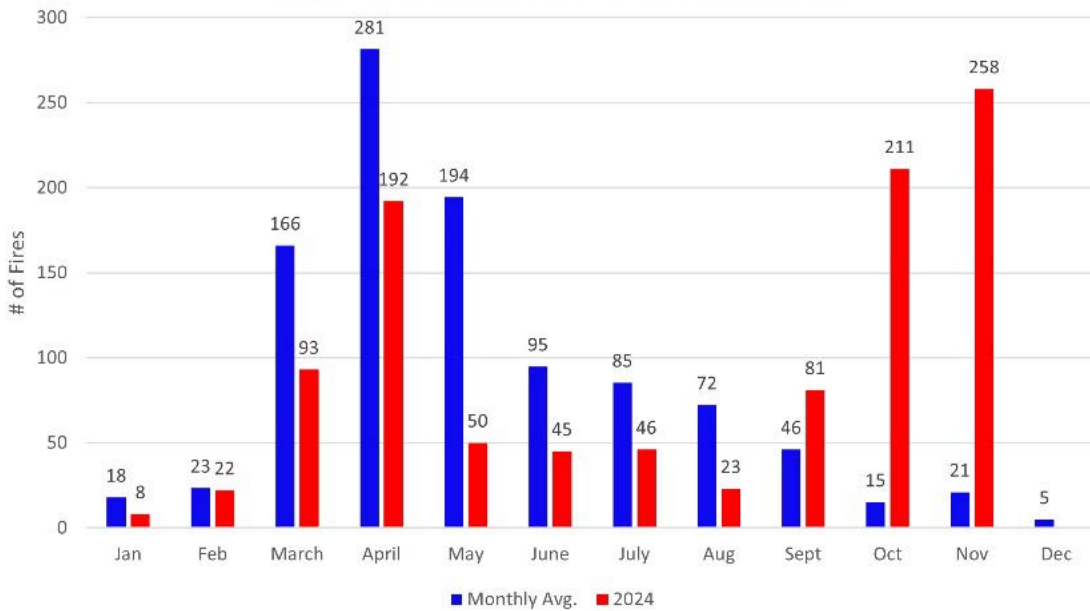


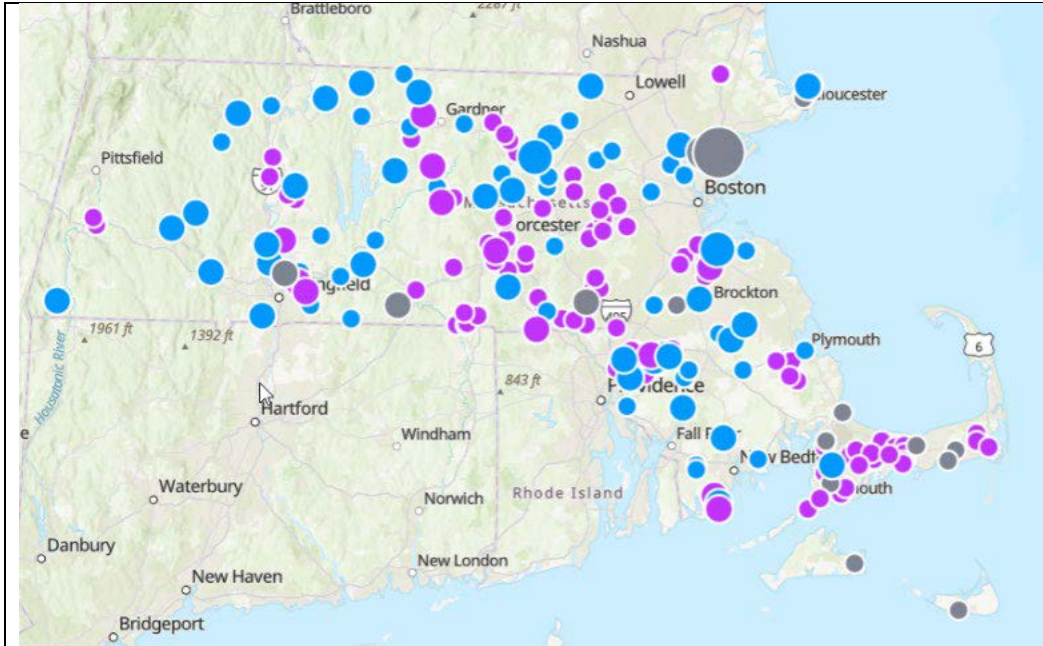
Source: DCR Bureau of Fire & Forestry and Local Fire Department Reporting

FIRE STATISTICS: YTD THROUGH NOVEMBER 11, 2024

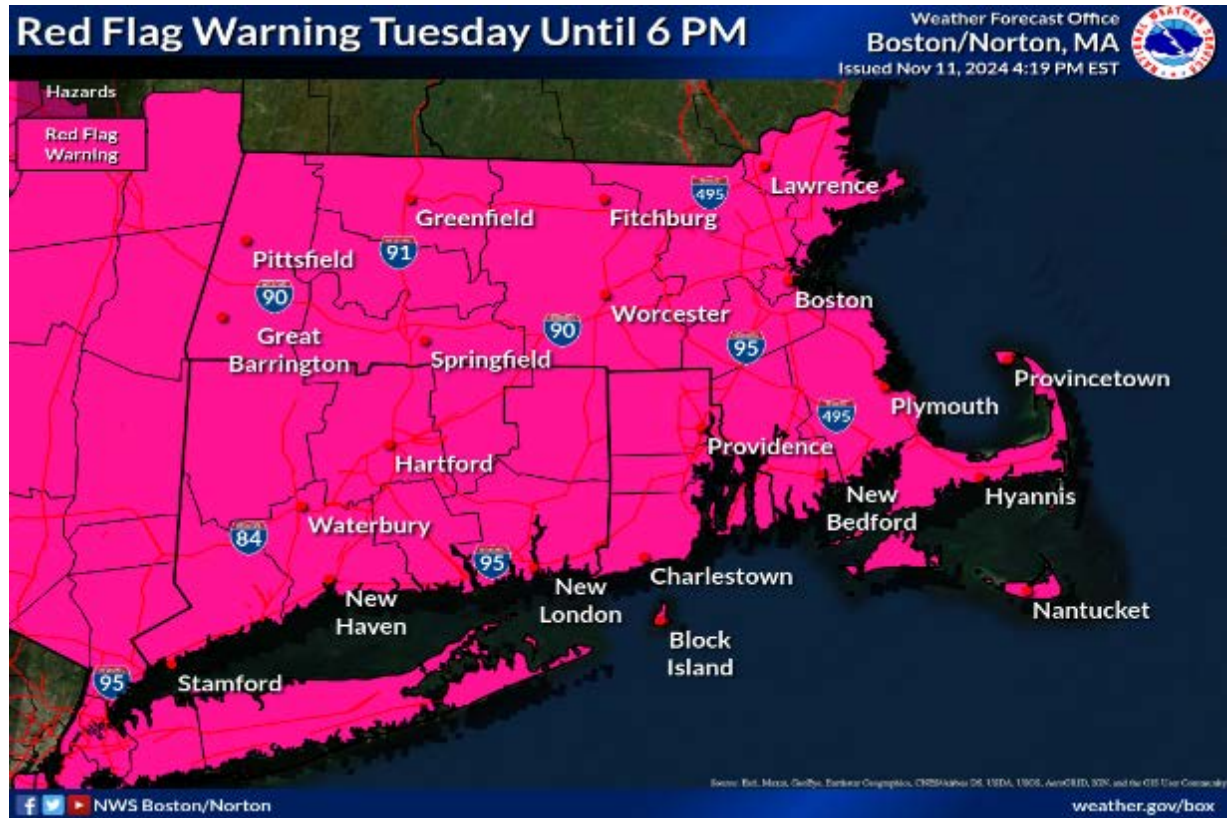
YTD STATE TOTALS:	1,036 FIRES	2,081 ACRES BURNED
OCTOBER TOTALS:	212 FIRES	841 ACRES BURNED
NOVEMBER TOTALS:	261 FIRES	696 ACRES BURNED
7 DAY TOTALS:	210 FIRES	532 ACRES BURNED

Massachusetts
Wildfire Occurrence 2018 - Current by Month





7 Day Fire Locations Since November 4



Map released: Thurs. November 7, 2024

Data valid: November 5, 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

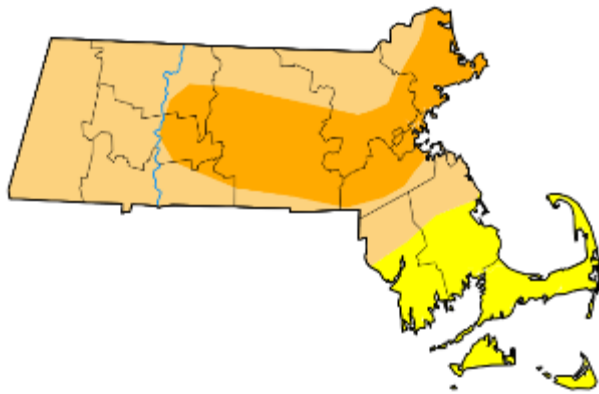
Authors

United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):

[Brian Fuchs](#), National Drought Mitigation Center

Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands Author(s):

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



Minimum RH Tuesday

Valid Tue 3:00AM through Tue 9:00PM EST

Weather Forecast Office
Boston/Norton, MA

Issued Nov 12, 2024 5:18 AM EST



Minimum RH Wednesday

Valid Wed 3:00AM through Wed 9:00PM EST

Weather Forecast Office
Boston/Norton, MA
Issued Nov 12, 2024 5:18 AM EST



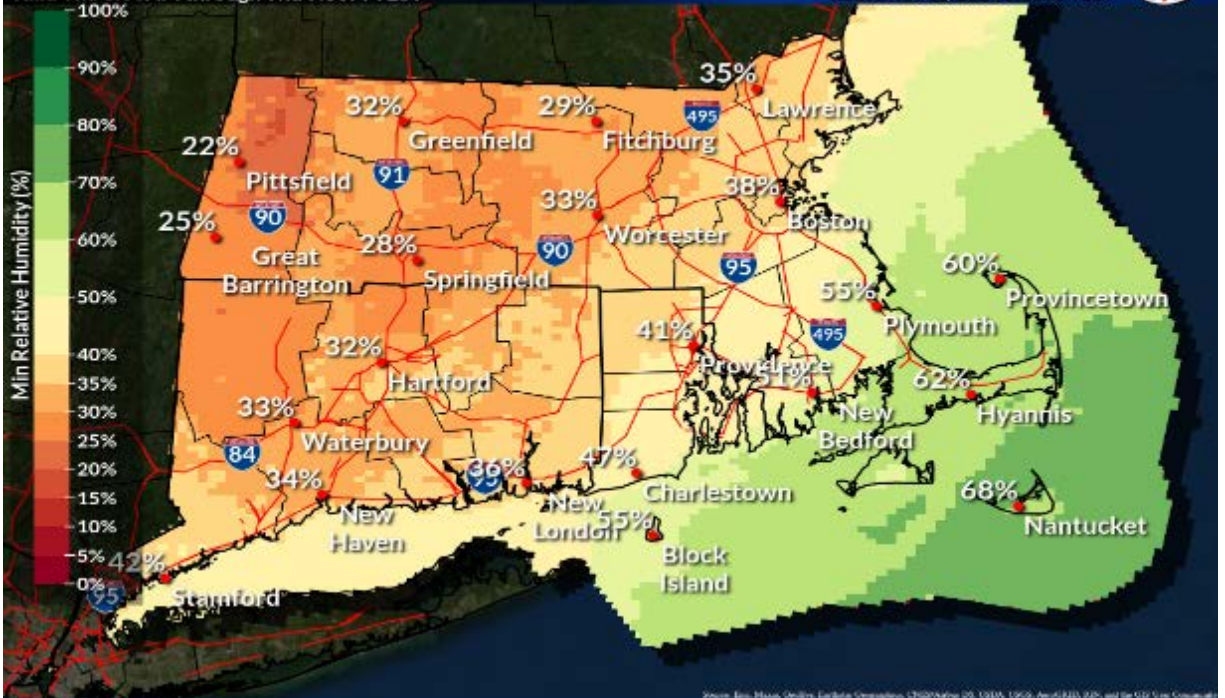
NWS Boston/Norton

weather.gov/box

Minimum RH Thursday

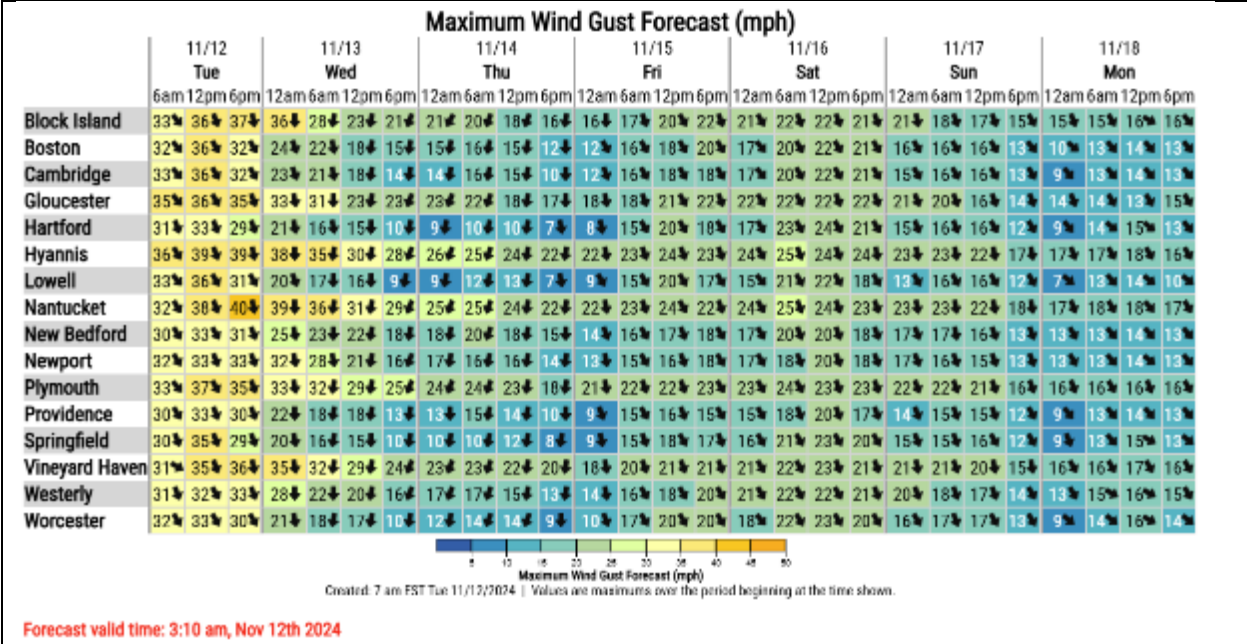
Valid Thu 3:00AM through Thu 9:00PM EST

Weather Forecast Office
Boston/Norton, MA
Issued Nov 12, 2024 5:18 AM EST



NWS Boston/Norton

weather.gov/box



MEMA Region Updates		
MEMA East	Significant Issues	Local coordinators are in contact with local public safety officials experiencing large wildfires and are prepared to support needs as they arise. MEOC-2 remains deployed to Middleton serving as a Unified Command post.
	Unmet Needs	None at this time
MEMA West	Significant Issues	Local coordinators are in contact with local public safety officials experiencing large wildfires and are prepared to support needs as they arise.
	Unmet Needs	None at this time.

Preparedness and Response Actions	
Firefighting	<p>Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR): DCR is a signatory to the Northeastern Forest Fire Protection Compact (NFFPC) which promotes effective prevention and control of forest fires in the Northeastern United States and adjacent areas in Canada. A 4-person engine from Maine and a 2-person engine from New Hampshire have been mobilized through the compact and are providing mutual aid to MA over the next three days. These crews are currently supporting suppression efforts in Boxford State Forest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DCR fire staff are assisting local fire departments with response, tactical, and strategic planning, and monitoring all active incidents. DCR fire towers on full alert and successfully detecting new fires, resulting in faster dispatching to fires quickly, resulting in much quicker dispatching to some fires.

- DCR has issued a temporary ban on all open flame and charcoal fires at Massachusetts state parks. The ban is effective immediately and will continue until further notice.

Working on the following wildfires as of 1700 on 11/10:

- **Mt. Gilead:** Lynn. Lynn Woods Reservation. *Currently at 427 Acres, 20% Contained through tonight's operation.* Behavior has greatly moderated with the lighter winds. Heavy smoldering and creeping fire, mostly interior. No growth reported. DCR and Lynn FD going indirect with extensive burnout operations with objective to anchor and stop forward progression using existing roads.
- **Old Forest Rd:** North Andover, MA. Located in Boxford State Forest. Started on 10/29 and held at 5 acres until it broke containment during high winds. All forward progress stopped by implementing well-executed burnout operations coordinated among 3 State wildfire agencies. Estimated at 128 acres, *10% contained.* DCR Fire and Compact engine crews from Maine and New Hampshire. Crews continue to strengthen containment lines.
- **Crag Mountain South:** Northfield, MA. Progression stopped at 5 acres, 55% containment. All active fire knocked down. Extended attack mop and patrol for tomorrow. 2 structures saved on initial attack. 2 additional structures threatened. DCR and Local on the fire.
- **Cain Hill:** Salem/Lynn. 140+ acres with 60% containment. Smoldering interior over most of the fire in heavy surface fuels. Producing light smoke locally, though increased due to increased fire weather indices.
- **Middleton Pond:** Middleton. *242 acres 60% contained. Extensive mop up around yesterday's escape to improve security along that portion of the west flank (DIV C).* Creeping and surface fire continue with a moderate to heavy smoking interior.
- **Pappas:** Canton. *33 acres dropped to 50%* containment due to increased interior burning. Areas of low surface fire activity overnight due to leaf litter fallout on burn area. Local units continue to patrol and mop-up. Low smoldering *activity in the interior with some creeping fire in fresh leaf litter. Local FD monitoring*
- **Wolcott Hill:** Milton, Blue Hills Reservation. Remains at 90% containment and 4 acres. Smoldering and creeping fire conditions has returned the response to monitor and patrol status.-No new activity.
- **Traders Way:** Salem. 15 Acres at *75%* containment. Structures in proximity. Continues to smolder in the interior, producing local smoke conditions. Containment lines being strengthened. No new activity. Local FD monitoring.
- **Bradway:** Monson. Located on Bradway Road. 44 acres, 90% contained. All perimeters holding strong. No new information.
- **Castle Rock:** Saugus, Breakheart State Reservation. 22 acres, *60%* contained. *State and local crew actively engaged and around the fire. Fire anchored to existing hardpacked trails and roads.*

- **Fitzgerald:** Northampton, MA, 55 acres, 85% contained. State and local crews around the fire. Suppression operations suspended and transitioned to patrol and monitor status.
- **Moose Meadow:** Montgomery, MA, 60 acres and 60% contained. Active in the interior today under windy conditions. No threats to containment.
- **FD05111:** Georgetown, Georgetown Rowley State Forest. 10 Acres **75%** containment. Transitioned to Patrol and Monitor status. Interior smoldering will produce light smoke conditions on Interstate 95 in the vicinity of Route 133.
- **Fern:** Saugus, Breakheart Reservation. 20 acres at **60%** containment. Active fire behavior. Saugus FD working with DCR Fire and two engines from New Hampshire through NE Forest Fire Compact Mutual Aid.

Department of Fire Services (DFS)

- The State Fire Marshal is in contact with fire chiefs across the state to ensure needs are met and coordination with resources is sufficient.
- DFS has deployed drones, ISUs, UTV/ATVs, rehab units, and staff to support incident commanders, fireground personnel, and impacted communities

Statewide Fire/EMS Mobilization:

Since 10/25, there have been a total of 18 fire mobilization requests for Forestry Task Forces in support of wildfire operations:

- 10/25 Wilmington
 - Forestry Task Force 14A
- 10/26 Wilmington
 - Forestry Task Forces 7C, 14B
- 10/27 Salem
 - Forestry Task Force 6A
- 10/28 Salem
 - Forestry Task Force 13A
- 10/29 Middleton
 - Forestry Task Forces 13A, 6A
- 10/29 Canton
 - Forestry Task Force 2F
- 10/29 Salem
 - Forestry Task Force 14A
- 10/30 Middleton
 - Forestry Task Force 4A, 8A
- 10/30 Salem
 - Forestry Task Force 14B
- 11/1 Monson
 - Structural Task Force 7A
 - Forestry Hand Crew 9
- 11/02 Monson
 - Forestry Task Force 12A
 - Structural Tender Task Force 9A
- 11/02 Middleton

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Forestry Task Force 2D • 11/3 Monson <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Forestry Task Force 7B • 11/4 Monson <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Forestry Task Force 8D • 11/6 Georgetown <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Forestry Task Force 6B • 11/10 North Reading <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Forestry Task Force 14C • 11/11 North Andover <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Forestry Strike Team 13B • 11/11 North Reading <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Forestry Task Force 8B <p>Many in-district strike teams have been requested to augment local efforts outside the Statewide Fire Mobilization Plan.</p> <p>Massachusetts National Guard (MANG)</p> <p>MANG air ops will support DCR Forestry and local incident commanders as needed. Air crews are on duty at both Air Support Facilities (Barnes and Joint Base Cape Cod) should a need for air support occur. These crews will be on duty through the weekend. <i>Aircraft are on standby on Tuesday.</i></p> <p>Massachusetts State Police (MSP)</p> <p>MSP continues to support wildfire response. Aerial assets are standing by today for any additional requests.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSP continues to deploy drones to provide aerial live feeds and thermal imaging for situational awareness. • The MSP Air Wing is available upon request to provide aerial surveillance for situational awareness and planning purposes.
<p>Health and Medical</p>	<p>Public Health Resources</p> <p>The Massachusetts Department of Public Health has compiled a range of resources designed to help residents, patients, and health professionals navigate the health risks associated with wildfire smoke. All resources are included in the PDF attached to the alert message. We encourage you to share these resources and educate residents on protective measures.</p> <p><u>Climate Fact Sheet: Wildfire Smoke</u> (available in 15 languages) – This resource explains who is at higher risk during a wildfire smoke event, including young children, older adults, individuals with respiratory conditions, and others with heightened vulnerability, and provides things people can do to stay safe such as talking with their provider about asthma medications, moving outdoor activities indoors, and having a supply of N95 masks available as needed.</p> <p><u>Climate fact sheet: wildfire smoke events mass.gov</u></p>

	<p>Climate Fact Sheet: Poor Outdoor Air Quality (available in 15 languages). This resource explains who is at higher risk to poor outdoor air quality including people with asthma, lung, or heart conditions, and provides steps people can take to stay safe such as staying informed about local air quality and reducing outdoor activities on high-pollution days.</p> <p>Climate fact sheet: poor outdoor air quality mass.gov</p> <p>For Public Officials and Clinicians: We ask that you remain vigilant and responsive to the needs of people who are most vulnerable within your communities. Informing residents about the availability of the resources</p>
Energy (Power and Fuel)	<p>Eversource:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eversource is closely monitoring the wildfire situation and has mitigation plans in place that can be activated if necessary. <p>National Grid:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Grid is fully engaged with its partners regarding recent wildfires. Should any emergency management entity need to contact National Grid for any wildfire response, please utilize existing previously distributed Priority phone numbers.
Environmental Protection	<p>Department of Environmental Protection: <i>Fine particle levels should average in the Good range on Tuesday. Levels may be elevated locally near any brush fires.</i> Open burning is prohibited.</p> <p>https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/dep/massair/web/#/pollution/map/forecast</p>

MEMA Operations	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daily coordination calls are occurring with EOPSS, MEMA, DFS, DCR Forestry, MANG, and impacted area fire officials to address unmet needs and ensure a strategic approach to wildfire response. On Monday, November 4th and again on Thursday November 7th, at the request of the State Fire Marshal, MEMA conducted proactive outreach to CSX and Pan Am railroads, asking them to pause any rail grinding or other rail work that could cause sparks through at least Sunday in Massachusetts, to prevent this cause of wildfires. The State Emergency Operations Center is currently operating at Steady State. MEMA will continue to monitor the situation and will disseminate an updated Situational Awareness Statements (SAS) tomorrow at 1500.

Safety Tips for Specific Threats and Hazards	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drought Safety Tips https://www.mass.gov/info-details/drought-safety-tips Power Outage Safety Tips https://www.mass.gov/info-details/power-outage-safety-tips Wildfire Safety Tips https://www.ready.gov/wildfires

Stay Informed

For additional information and updated forecasts, see <https://www.weather.gov/box/> (NWS Boston/Norton), and <https://www.weather.gov/aly/> (NWS Albany).

Use MEMA's real-time power outage map to stay informed about current power outages in your community/county, and across the state, including information from utility providers <http://mema.maponline.net/public.html>

Online Resources

Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency: www.mass.gov/mema

MEMA's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MassachusettsEMA>

MEMA on X: <https://x.com/MassEMA>

Federal Emergency Management Agency: <https://www.fema.gov/>

National Weather Service Boston/Norton: <https://www.weather.gov/box/>

National Weather Service Albany NY: <https://www.weather.gov/aly/>

NOAA/NWS Storm Prediction Center: <https://www.spc.noaa.gov/>

Northeast River Forecast Center: <https://www.weather.gov/nerfc/>

National Hurricane Center: <https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

Mass 211: <https://mass211.org/>

National Interagency Fire Center: [Welcome to the Nation's Logistical Support Center | National Interagency Fire Center](#)

Eastern Area Coordination Center: [Home | Eastern Area Coordination Center \(EACC\)](#)

Report developed by Scott Langlands, All-Hazards Planner

24/7 MEMA Dispatch Phone # (508) 820-2000