



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

# 2024 NYS DEC Wildland Fire Season Review

NYS DEC Forest Rangers

February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025

# 2024 Wildfire Season Overview

- Combined data from DEC and OFPC:
  - 1,326 Fires burned 7,115 Acres.
  - Many of these fires were suppressed by local fire departments with no DEC involvement.
- DEC Forest Rangers responded to 122 fires which burned 6,495 Acres.



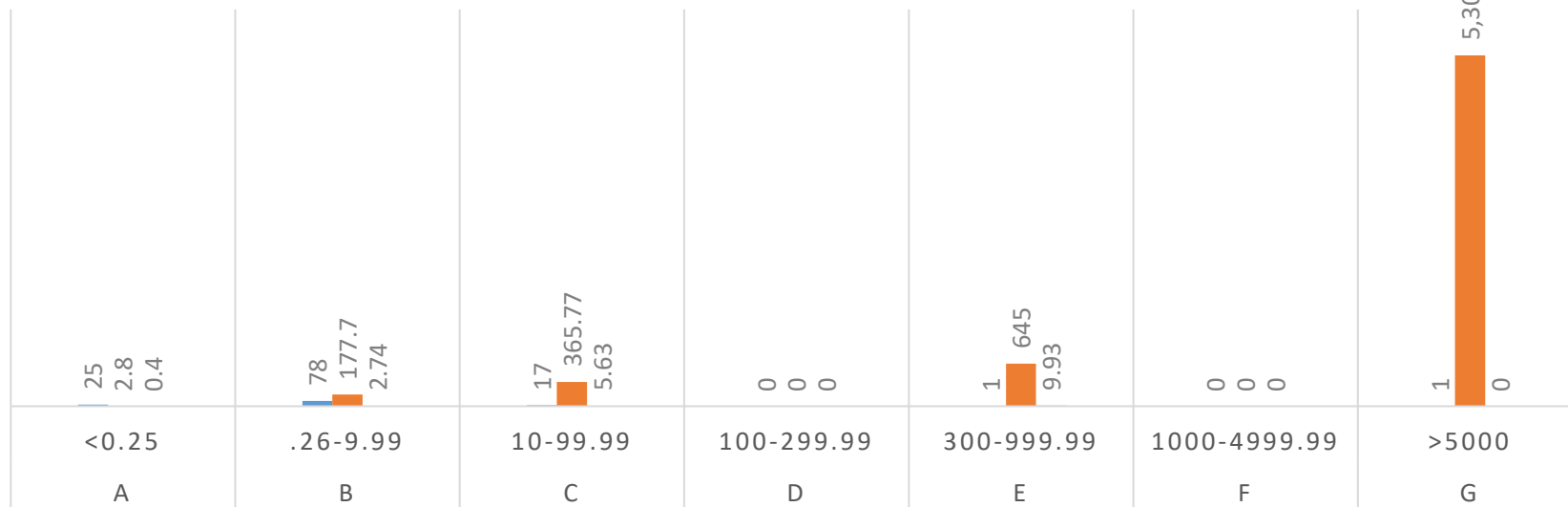
# DEC Forest Ranger Wildfire Response

- Rangers responded to wildfires throughout the year. The first fire was February 9<sup>th</sup>. The last fire was December 14<sup>th</sup>.

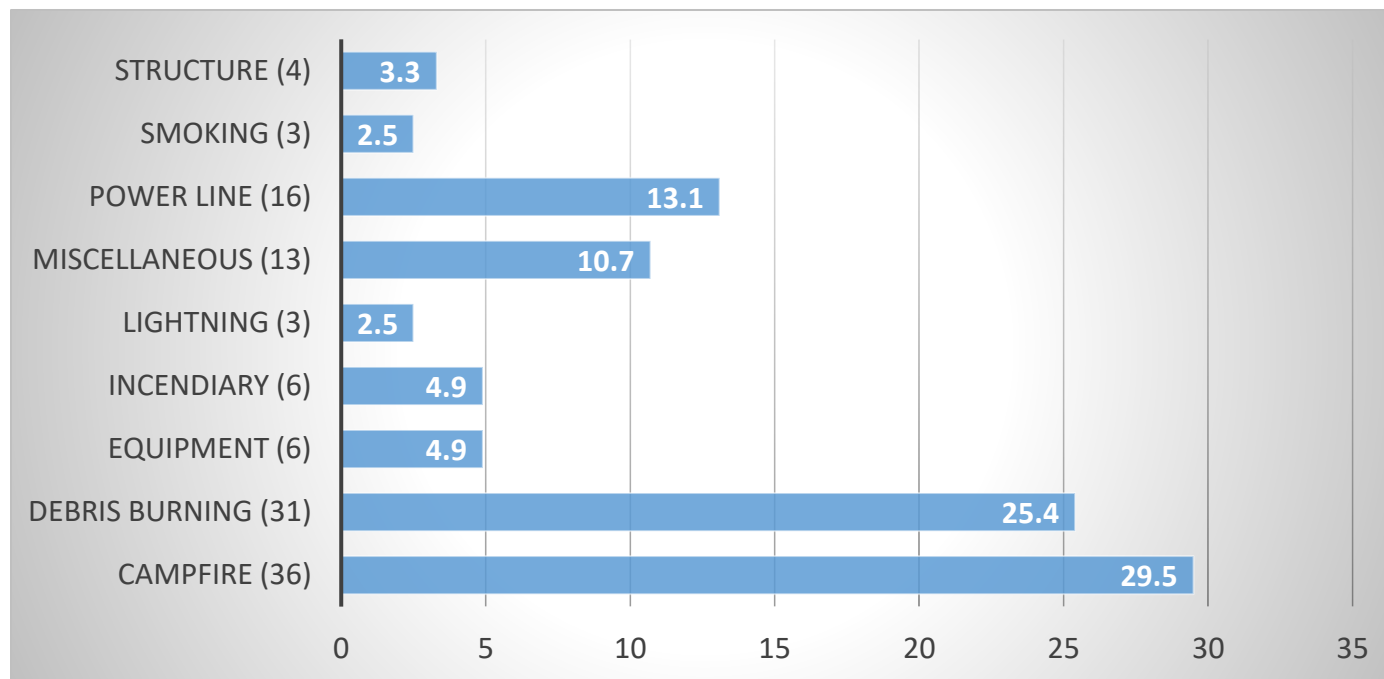


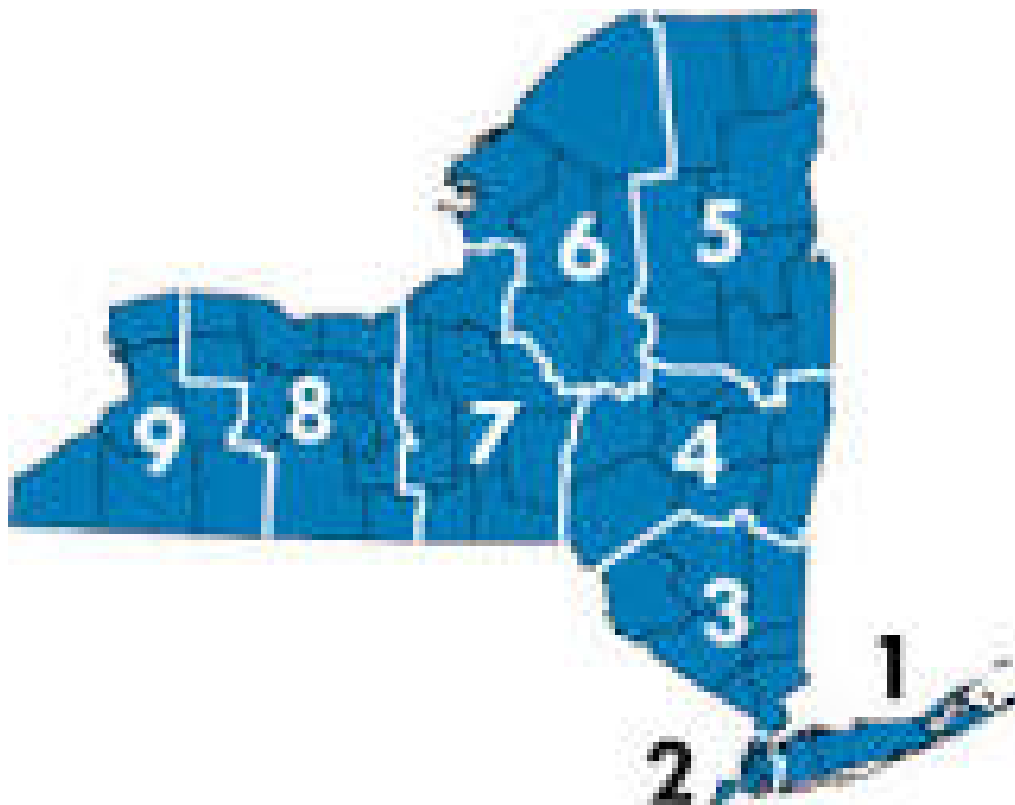
# 2024 DEC Wildfires by Size Class

■ Number of Fires ■ Total Acres ■ % of Acres



# 2024 Wildfires by Cause (% of Total)



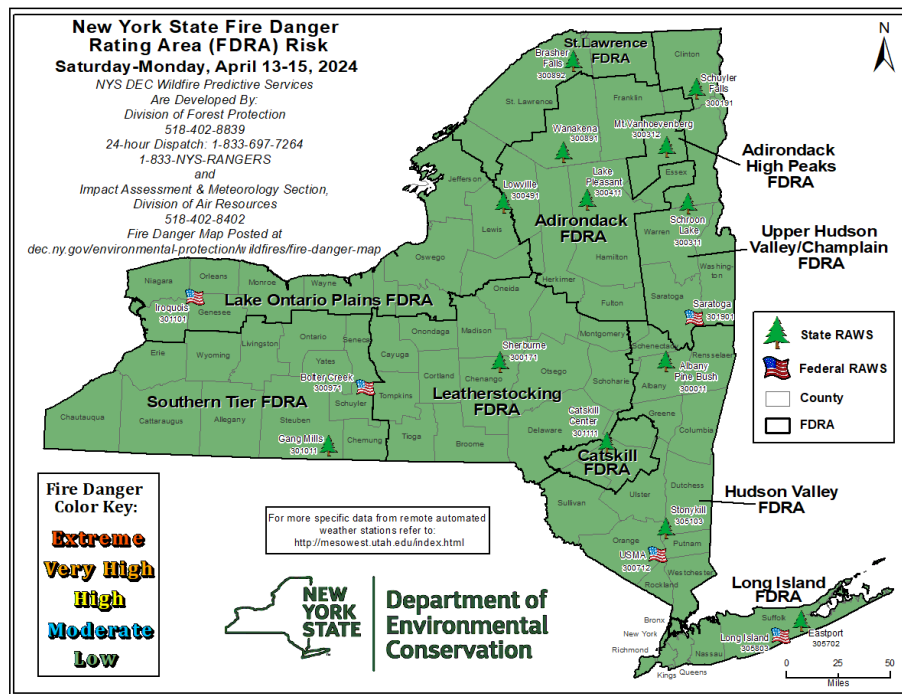


# 2024 Wildfires: Pre-green up, Spring fires


- Annual Statewide burn ban in effect March 15-May 14
- During our traditional spring fire season of mid-March to mid-May, we only had 17 fires for 55.1 acres versus 2023 when we had 63 fires for 1,061 acres in the same timeframe.
- The slow spring fire season allowed us to concentrate on prescribed fire throughout the state, completing 41 burns for 979.4 acres from March 15<sup>th</sup> to May 15<sup>th</sup>.



# Typical 2024 spring fire season fire danger map





A circular inset image showing a night forest fire. The fire is a bright, horizontal line of orange and yellow flames at the base of the trees. The trees are dark and silhouetted against the fire. A person is silhouetted in the foreground, looking towards the fire. The background is dark and smoky.

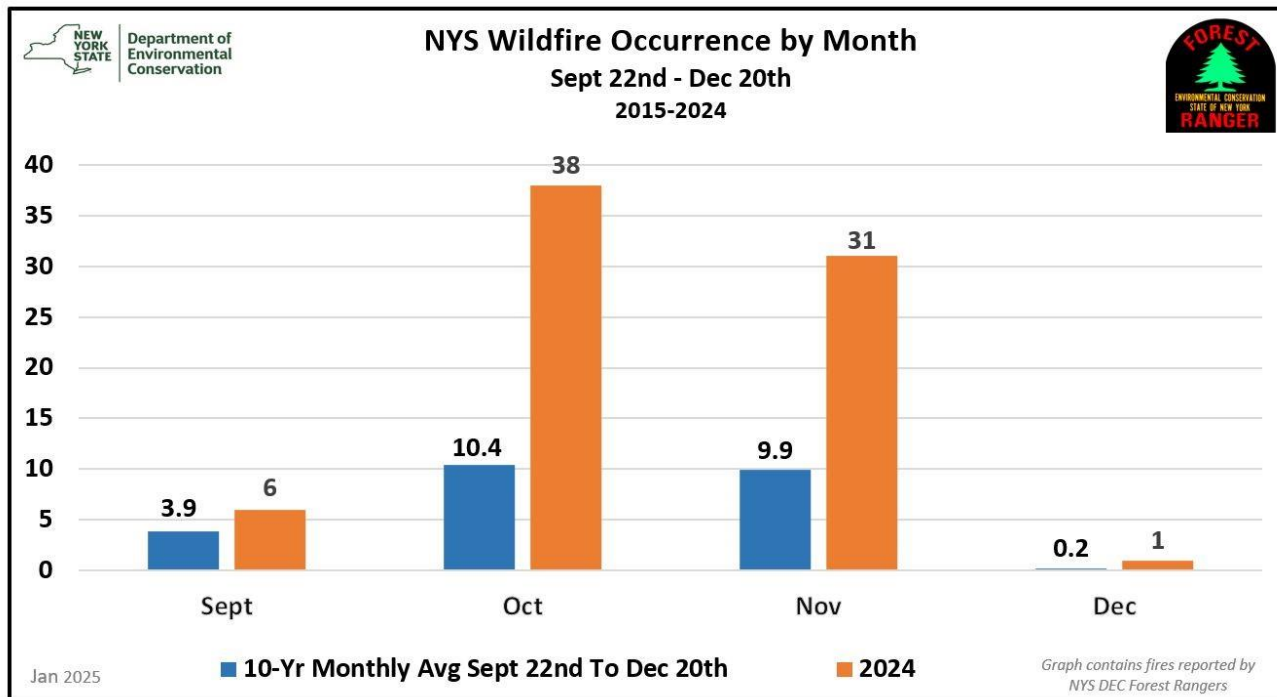
The Candle Road fire was the biggest fire during the 2024 spring fire season at 32.6 acres. The fire started on March 30<sup>th</sup> and was declared out on April 1<sup>st</sup>. The cause of this fire was a campfire along a hiking trail.

# 2024 Fall Fire Season

- September 1 to December 31 Rangers responded to 79 fires for 6,352.9 acres.
- Most of the fall fires occurred in DEC Region 3. These fires accounted for 6,149.2 acres or almost 97% of the total fall fire acreage.



# 2024 Fall fires vs. 10 year average



# Whitehouse Fire Region 3 Zone A

- Started November 8<sup>th</sup>. Declare out on November 29<sup>th</sup> at 645 acres.
- Town of Denning, Ulster county
- Fire was started by a burning structure. Two structures lost in this fire.



# Whitehouse Fire Region 3 Zone A

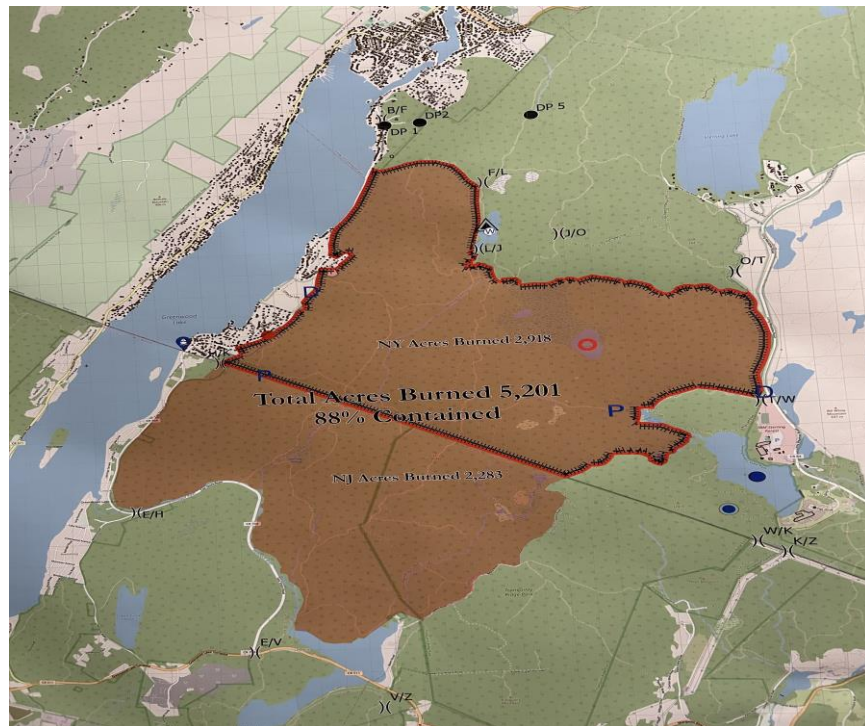


# Jennings Creek Fire Region 3 Zone B

- Started on October 18<sup>th</sup>. Declared out on November 29<sup>th</sup>
- Occurred on Sterling Forest State Park (OPR&HP). Orange County, town of Warwick.
- Final Acreage was 5,304 acres. 2,283 acres in New Jersey
- 180 Structures Threatened
- 1 Fatality (OPR&HP employee) Investigation on going
- Resources brought in from all over the state as well as a T2IA crew from Montana.



# 2024 Jennings Creek Fire Map





# 2024 Jennings Creek Fire





# 2024 Jennings Creek Fire



# 2024 Wildfire Assistance

New York State sent the first out of state resource request on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. A Type 2 Initial Attack Crew was sent to Helena, Montana.



# 2024 Wildfire Assistance

Interagency T2IA Hand Crew, Suppression Module and 3 Engine Crews were dispatched to Helena, Montana

Single Resources were deployed to Oregon, 4 Forest Rangers and 2 ADs



# 2024 Wildfire Assistance





# 2024 Prescribed Fire

- DEC Forest Rangers, in cooperation with the Albany Pine Bush and the Central Pine Barrens Commission conducted 60 prescribed burns in 2024. A total of 1,156 acres were treated with prescribed fire.





## 2024 Prescribed Fire

- Starting mid March and continuing through the middle of May, prescribed burns were conducted in DEC Regions 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 & 8.





## 2024 Prescribed Fire-Rx Fire Modules

- Modules consisting of 6 Rangers were sent to assist with prescribed fire projects on Long Island. This provided a great training opportunity, and it ensured adequate staffing to conduct the burns.



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## 2024 Prescribed Fire-Regions 3,4,6 7 & 8

- Additional Rangers were sent to assist with prescribed burns in these regions to provide training opportunities and adequate staffing.
- The NWS forecast and the NWS Fire Weather Dashboard were critical decision making tools in planning for these burns.



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# 2024 Prescribed Fire-Regions 1 & 4

- Following green-up and into the fall, additional burns were conducted in DEC Region 4 in partnership with the Albany Pine Bush, and in DEC Region 1 in partnership with the Central Pine Barrens Commission and the Brookhaven National Lab.



QUESTIONS???



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# Thank You

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