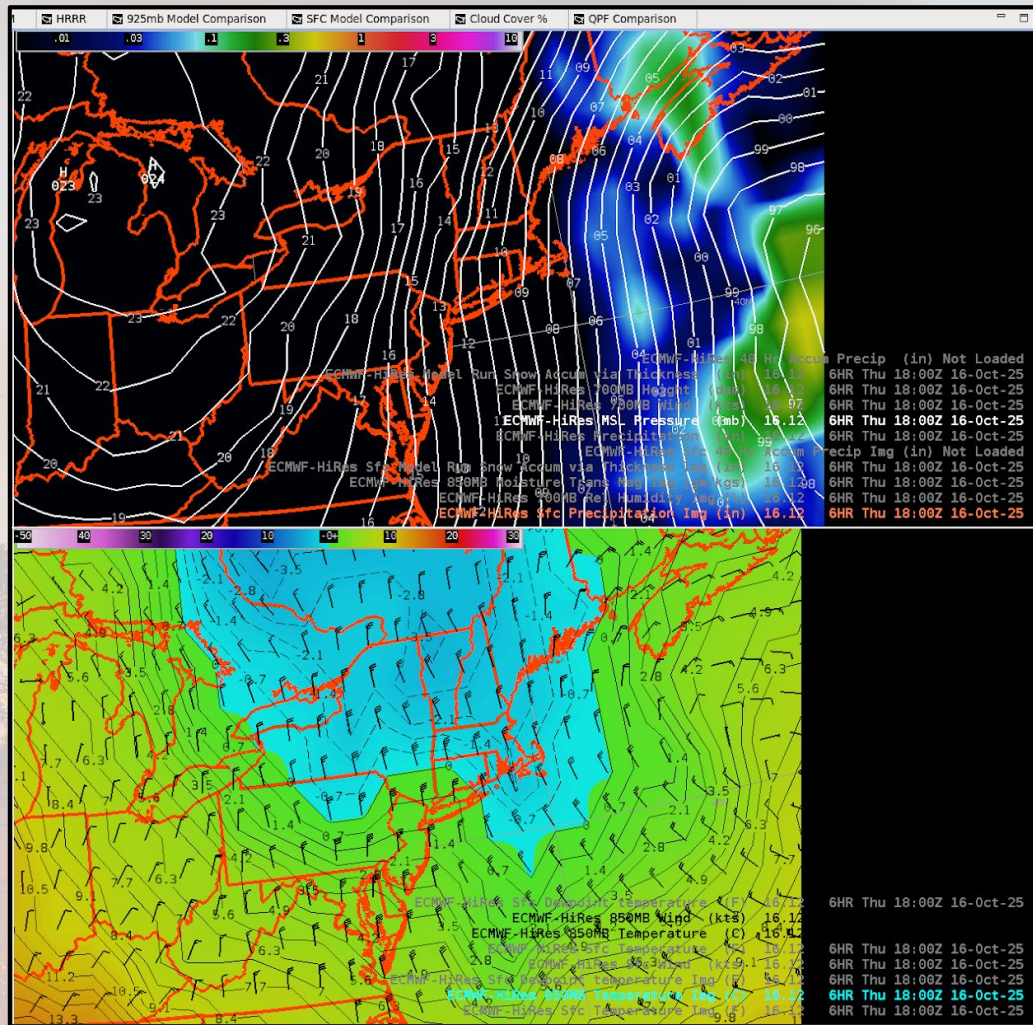


The image features a dramatic landscape. At the bottom, there is a bright, intense fire with tall, jagged flames. Above the fire, a dense line of trees is silhouetted against a hazy, orange-tinted sky. The top half of the image is dominated by large, dark, billowing clouds, suggesting a storm or a very large fire. The overall color palette is a mix of fiery oranges and yellows, dark greys, and muted blues.

**October 16, 2025 Exercise**

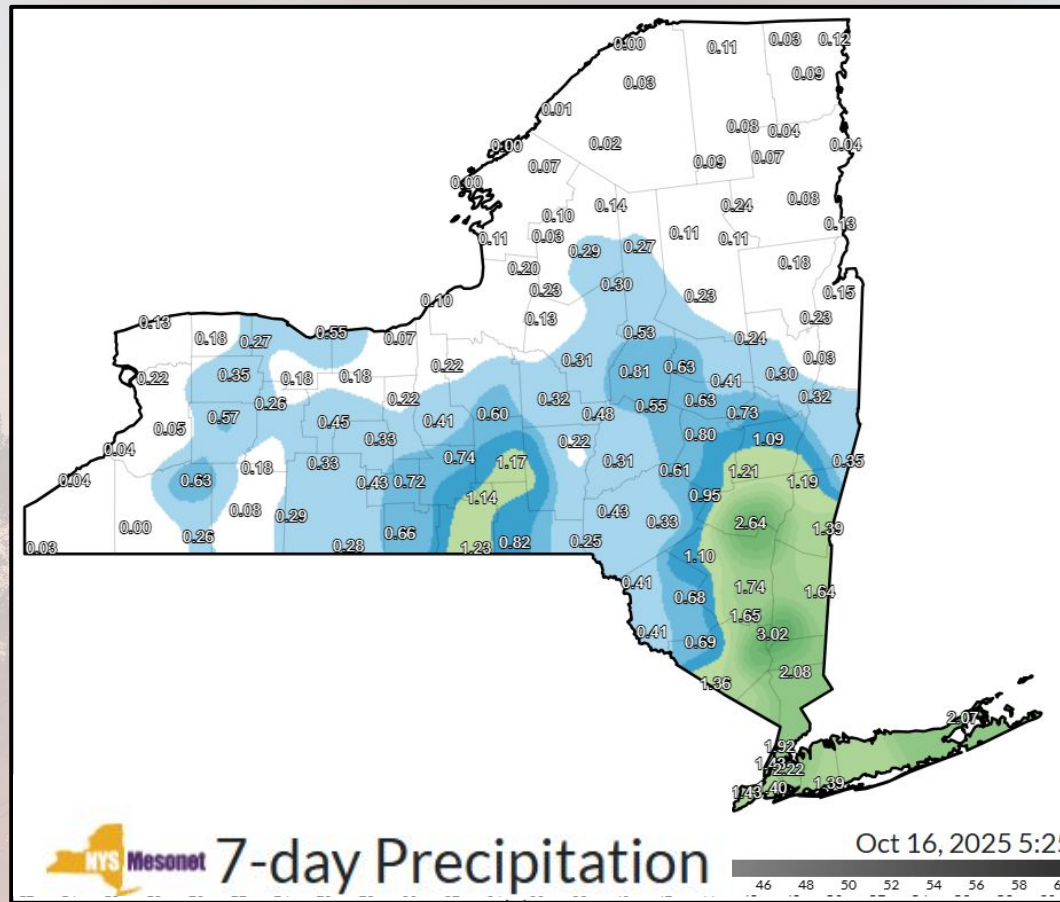
# Case Overview

- Thursday 10/16/2025 was expected to have clear skies behind a cold front.
- Winds would gust to around 25 mph out of the N/NW.
- RH values were expected to drop to near or slightly below Red Flag criteria.



# Case Overview

- The previous 2 days had been completely dry, but cool and partly to mostly cloudy. Significant rain occurred within the 3-5 day prior timeframe, especially along and south of I-90.
- Many high-terrain areas had already dropped their leaves. Valley areas were short of peak color, with a lot of green across southern portions of the state.



# Case Overview

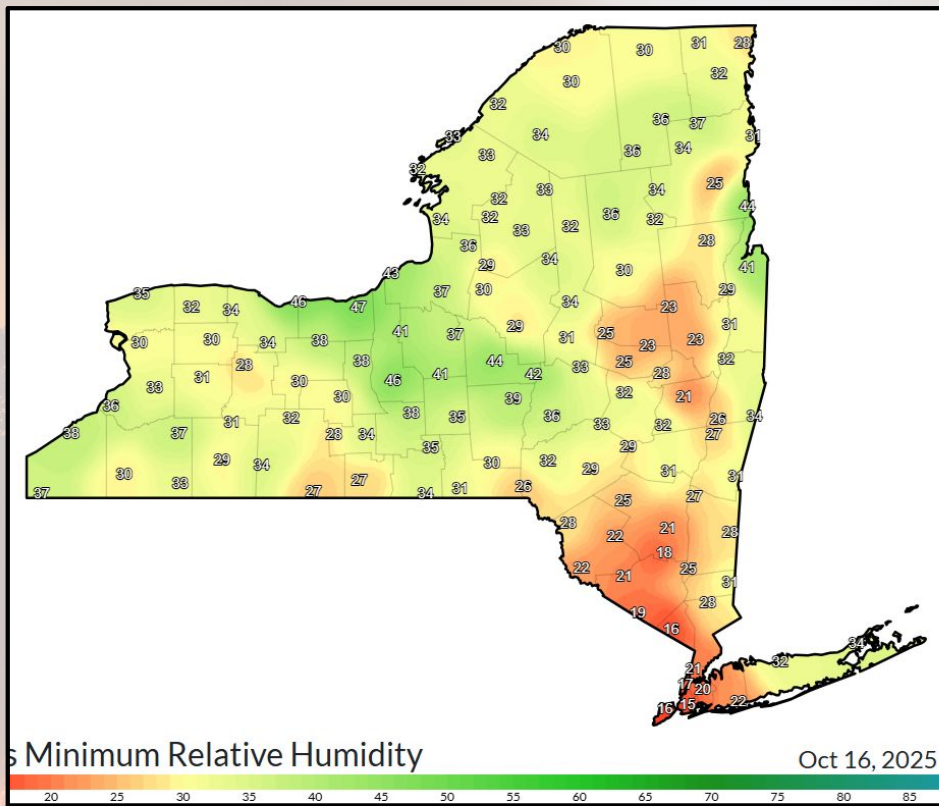
- NWS forecasters correctly identified the need to increase wind gusts and lower RH values in the forecast, but these parameters may have still been slightly under-forecasted.
- ALY, BGM, and BTV had mentioned potential fire weather concerns leading up to this event, but ultimately a coordination call never took place. No SPSs/RFWs were issued by the NWS.

# Exercise

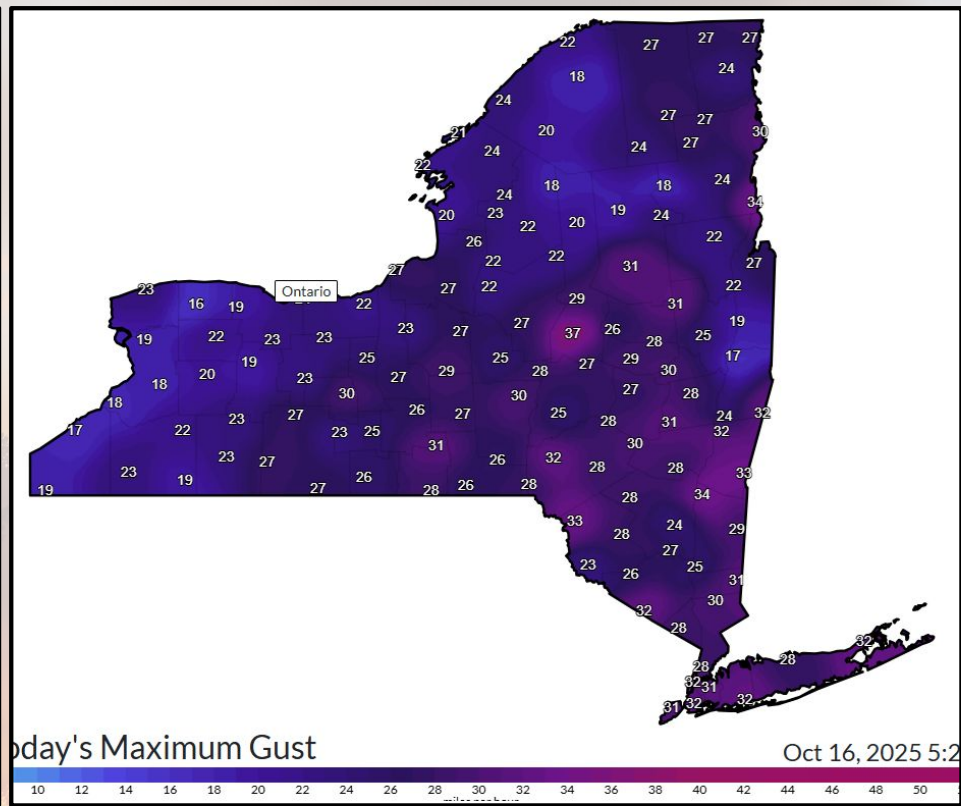
- Using the verification data from the NYS Mesonet:
  - The NWS forecasters will assume the role of the day shift forecaster evaluating the need for potential fire weather headlines, using last year's [new NYS coordination procedure](#)
  - ALY will help organize collaboration efforts between the NWS and DEC
  - The DEC will offer input on fuels and headline (SPS/RFW) decisions

# Mesonet Verification Data

## NYS Mesonet Minimum RH



## NYS Mesonet Maximum Wind Gusts



# NWS headline Recommendations:

St. Lawrence - None

N. ADKs -None

S. ADKs - none

High Peaks - none

Champlain Valley - SPS **ok**

Upper Hudson Valley - None

Middle Hudson Valley - SPS? **no**

Catskills -SPS?**no**

Lower Hudson Valley - SPS? **no**

NYC -SPS? **no**

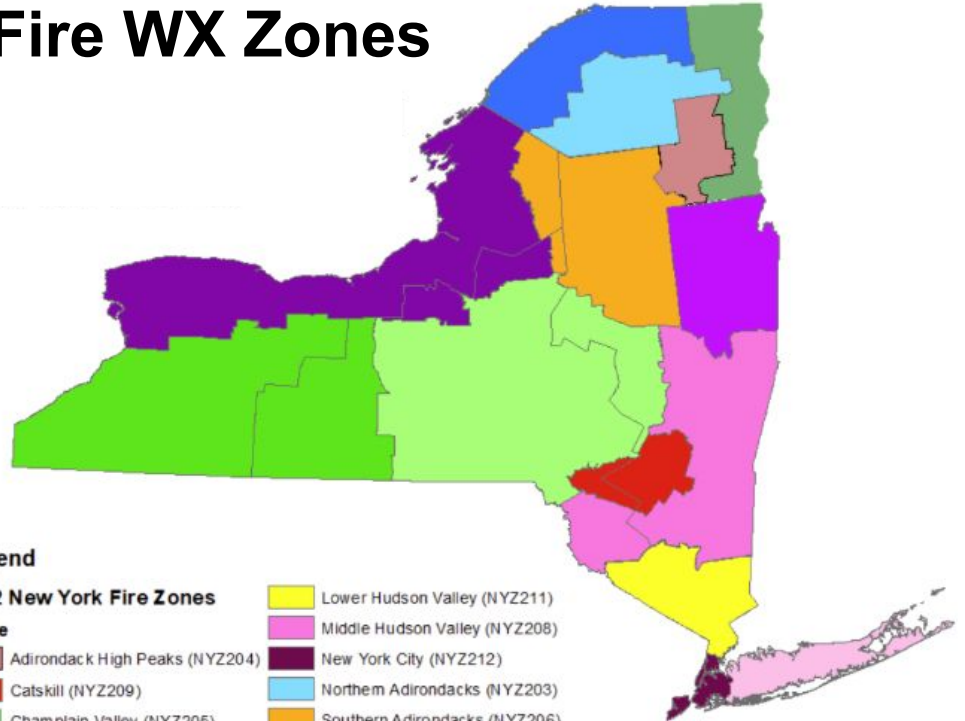
Long Island -SPS? **no**

Leatherstocking - SPS (central part elevated RH) **no**

Southern Tier - SPS **no**

Lake Ontario Plains - SPS - **ok**

## NY Fire WX Zones



### Legend

#### 2022 New York Fire Zones

#### Name

Adirondack High Peaks (NYZ204)

Catskill (NYZ209)

Champlain Valley (NYZ205)

Lake Ontario Plains (NYZ201)

Leatherstocking (NYZ210)

Long Island (NYZ213)

Lower Hudson Valley (NYZ211)

Middle Hudson Valley (NYZ208)

New York City (NYZ212)

Northern Adirondacks (NYZ203)

Southern Adirondacks (NYZ206)

Southern Tier (NYZ200)

St. Lawrence (NYZ202)

Upper Hudson Valley (NYZ207)

# NWS headline Recommendations:

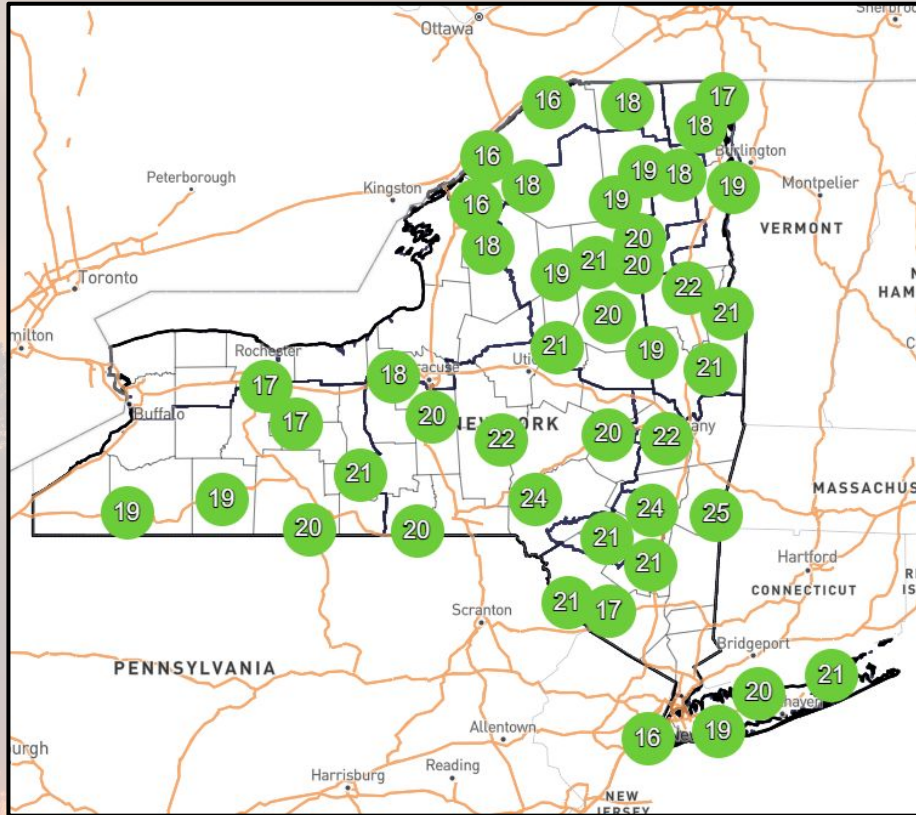
SPSs were agreed upon for the Champlain Valley and Lake Ontario Plains fire weather zones only.

While the NWS thought the meteorology supported SPS issuance for a much broader region of the state, the DEC confirmed that the fuels outside of these fire weather zones were too wet from the recent rainfall to justify SPS issuance.

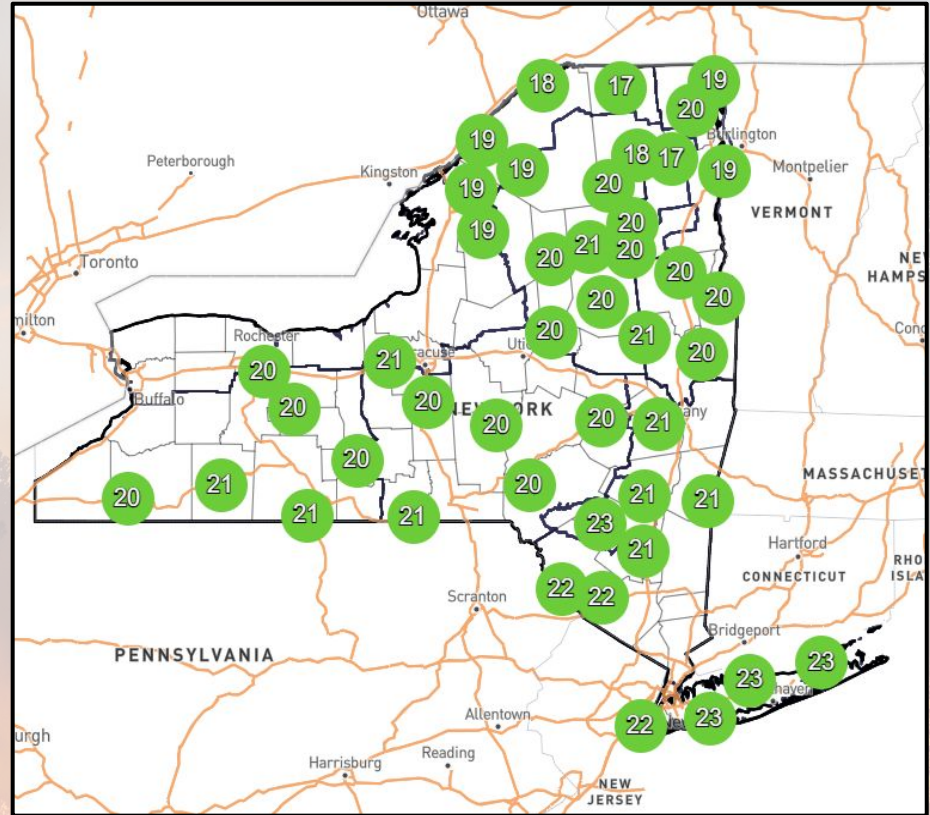


# Fuel Info

## NYS Mesonet 10-hr Fuel Moisture

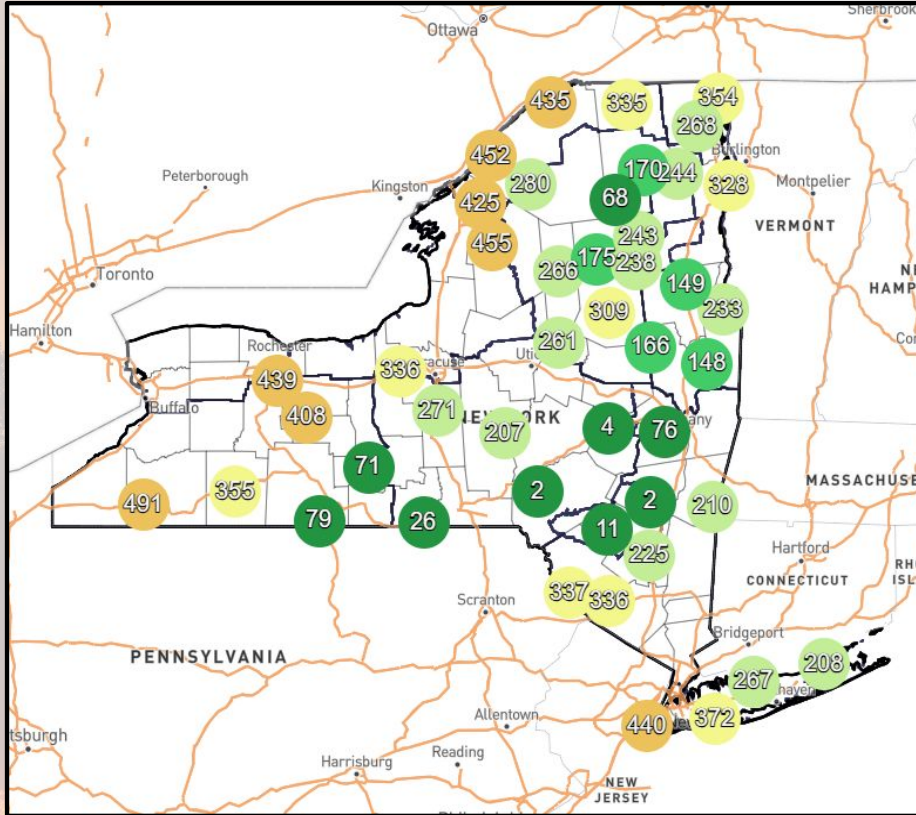


## NYS Mesonet 1000-hr Fuel Moisture

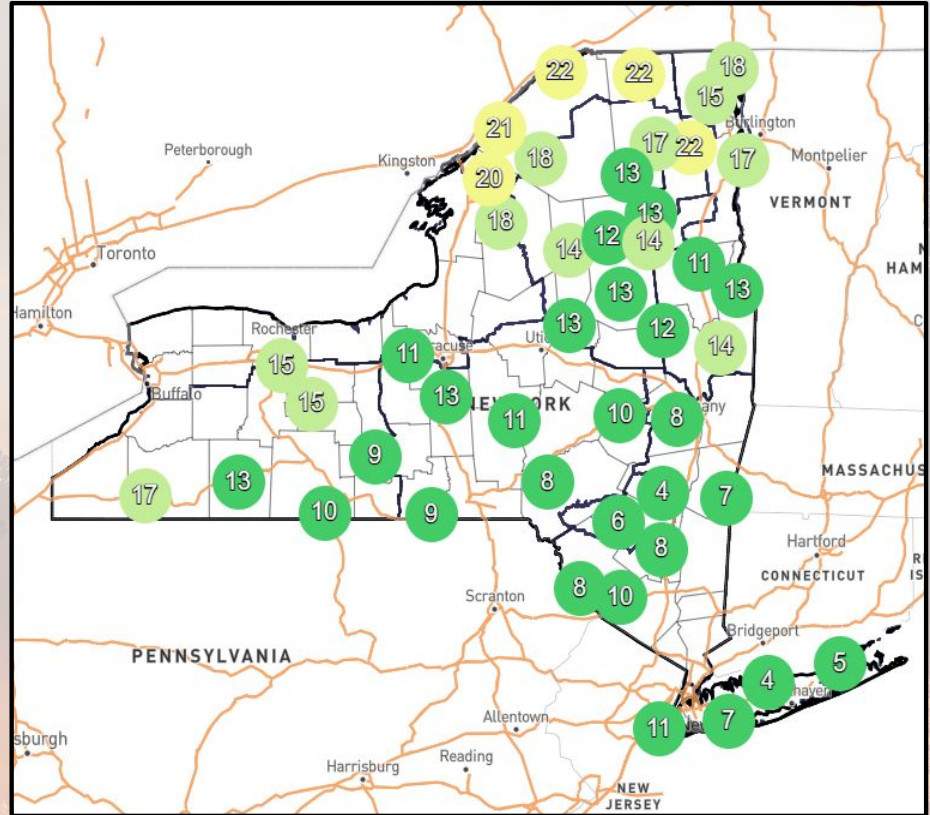


# Fuel Info

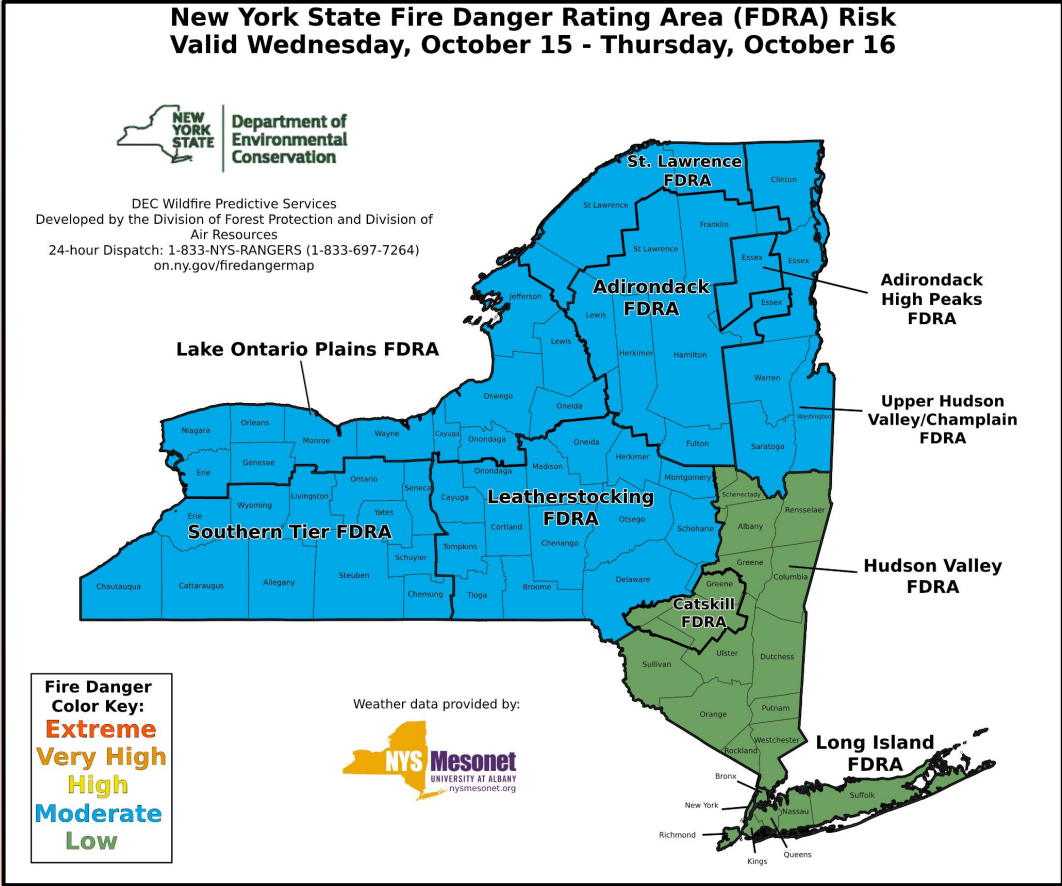
## NYS Mesonet KBDI



## NYS Mesonet ERC



# NYS DEC Fire Danger Map



# Discussion Topics

- What worked well?
- Any challenges that need improvement?
- Best time for a call with the DEC given new NWS forecast procedures?
  - Before 2 PM may be tough for the NWS with our new forecast procedures

# Discussion Topics - SPS Issuance

- Criteria - All of wind/RH/fuels are at least close, ideally with  $\frac{2}{3}$  meeting RFW criteria
- Situations where 2 WFOs have similar meteorology and fuels but only 1 has an SPS are confusing
- SPSs have to be issued by public zone, but should adhere as closely as possible to fire weather zone boundaries - any issues with this from the NWS or DEC?
- Is everyone ok with ALY initiating calls with the DEC at forecaster discretion, or would a set criteria to initiate calls be better?