



Massachusetts Communications Supervisors Association

“Developing Dispatchers & Dispatch Centers”

Hastings
WESTCOMM
President

Peter Kinnas
State 911 Department
Vice-President

Gregory Lynskey
SWCCC
Secretary

Warren Gould
Boxford Communications
Treasurer

Katrina Shamshak
North Shore Regional 911
Keenan Leonard-Solis
Georgetown Police
Essex County VP's

Patrick Feeney
SEMRECC
Michael Gethin
State 911 Department
Southeast Regional VP's

Corey Swift
Wilmington Public Safety
Anne Camaro
Nashoba Valley RECC
Middlesex-Suffolk County VP's

Chris Carleton
Northborough Communications
Daniel Walsh
Clinton Police
Worcester County VP's

Khristy Lord
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Johnathan Danek
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Hampden/Berkshire Cty VP's

Donald Tryon
MSP RECC Northampton
Franklin/Hampshire County VP

Katrina Shamshak
North Shore Regional 911
Training Coordinator

Kevin Lessard
Northern Middlesex RECC
911 Commission Representative

Board@ma911.org

October 16, 2024, Monthly Meeting - Hybrid meeting held at Worcester RECC and via Microsoft Teams. 42 Total Attendees, 27 in person and 15 virtual

Minutes Submitted by: Secretary Gregory Lynskey

1. Welcome and Introductions

- President Hastings called the meeting to order at 10:00am and welcomed all attendees.
- President Hastings informed all attendees that the meeting is being video and audio recorded for record keeping and historical purposes and will be posted on the website.
- Video Link: <https://ma911.org/2024/11/06/october-2024-monthly-meeting-video/>
- In person attendees introduced themselves.
- President Hastings noted that there were several legislators or their representatives presented and recognized them. In attendance were State Representative Joseph McKenna, Kylie Gibbons, Director of Communications and Community Engagement for State Senator Ryan Fattman, and Curtis Boucher, Legislative Director for Senator Peter Durant. She welcomed them and thanked them for taking the time to join us to learn more about the profession and the association.

2. Monthly Training / Presentation

- Roy Liard, District Warden for Fire District 7, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Forest Fire Control, presented about DCR and the services provided to communities from the Bureau of Forest Fire Control.
- He went over the organization of DCR Fire districts and their staffing, the roles they play, and the programs they take part in.
- He explained the Northeastern Forest Fire Protection Compact and the National Wildfire Coordinating Group.
- He explained the responsibilities of the Bureau of Forest Fire Control, specifically noting that jurisdiction of all wildland fires remains with the municipality, even on state land. DCR provides assistance and advisory on the fires.
- He went over the Federal Excess Property Program and the Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant Program, both of which are administered by Fire Control.



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- f. He gave an overview of air support for wildland fires and the agreements that exist with both the MSP and the MA Air National Guard.
- g. He provided some statistics of Wildland Fires in Massachusetts over the last several years and explained the Prescribed Fire program and its purpose and goal of reducing fires.
- h. He explained the daily fire weather forecast and noted that DCR is currently rolling out a new automated fire weather system with the goal to have it online and operational by the spring fire season. The fire weather will then be publicly accessible at <http://www.massachusettsfireweather.org>
- i. He went over the Fire Lookout towers and how vital they are to detection of wildland fires. He provided an overview of how fire spotting works and how the towers work together to pinpoint the location of a fire. He provided a demonstration of how the towers determine lines and triangulate fires by crossing their lines. He noted that there is an online system that is used by many of the districts and even some fire departments that has made the triangulation process much easier. The site was developed by an Oxford Firefighter: <https://responder.hero-software.com/fire-tower-lines/standalone>
- j. He noted that the fire towers are typically very much welcoming to guests and suggested that if you are in the area of one, stop up to see it in action.
- k. Alexa Owen asked if there is any way to determine distance based upon a line. Warden Liard stated the equipment in MA does not allow that and it is necessary to count ridges on a topographic map. He noted that some states do have 3D type alidades that can account for distance, but he is not aware of any Massachusetts towers having one.
- l. Keenan Leonard-Solis stated he has worked with the Georgetown Tower a bunch over the years and they do a great job doing what they do.
- m. Representative Joe McKenna asked fire load in the forested areas, specifically interested in Douglas State Forest. Warden Liard stated that is one of the roles of Fire Control is to manage that fire load. They typically do so outside of forest fire season by maintaining the fire roads and cart paths and conducting prescribed burns when necessary.
- n. President Hastings thanked Warden Liard for his informative presentation.



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3. Special Guests

- a. *President Hastings welcomed the legislative Representatives and spoke about the importance of keeping in contact with them to let them know what we do. She noted that we are a newer profession, only about 30 years old. She spoke about the two different bills going through the legislature, the First Responder Reclassification bill and the Retirement change to Group 2, noting that currently telecommunicators must do 40 years in the profession before being able to retire and that just about no one makes it there. She noted the importance of face to face meetings with all of our legislators. Representative McKenna stating that he has tremendous appreciation for what telecommunicators do every day. He noted that he has been a big supporter of the bills all along and will continue to be. President Hastings added that MCSA membership covers about 200 communities across the state.*

4. Update from State 911 Department

- a. Monna Wallace provided an overview of VIIZ, the backup call center that has been contracted by Comtech as a failsafe in the event of a major system outage like was experienced in June or even if there is an overwhelming call volume that cannot be answered even after final route. She covered the details from the new job aid being released. She noted that VIIZ will transfer calls to business lines so if there are any changes to business lines, make sure to notify State 911. They will audit the lines several times per year as well. Keenan Leonard Solis asked if all functionality is carried over, such as the silent call procedure. Monna stated they have TTY ability and they are aware of the Silent call procedure but they are not able to accept touch tone presses into their system. They cannot do Text to 911 either. They do receive mapping but cannot transfer it. The ANI will however present as the caller ID if your business line is able to display caller ID. President Hastings noted that for cell calls, the Rapid SOS portal might still provide you mapping info as it did during the June outage. Alexa Owen asked what happens when it goes to VIIZ due to being overwhelmed locally and they try to transfer it to the business lines that are overloaded. Monna stated if they can't reach the local PSAP they will deliver the call to POD-1. Pete Kinnas noted the importance of VIIZ to the public as it provides a backup solution where they still call 911 and get answered without the need to be told or know the business line. It provides a seamless solution to the public. The Job Aid is attached.



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- b. Monna Wallace stated they have been continuing to work through issues with the Interpreter Services company and she noted that they have added an additional common language to the prompts which is Brazilian Portuguese.
- c. Regarding Training, Monna mentioned PPAL, the Parent Professional Advocacy League that they have partnered with. There will be monthly 4 hour in person classes and 2 hour teams classes. Both are good for counting towards the Behavioral Health Con Ed requirement. Monna also noted they have made revisions to the approved training list. All Behavioral Health approved classes are not at the top. She reminded everyone to keep sending in class approval requests. She also noted that a Behavioral Health component is now also required as part of the 40 hour basic telecommunicator course requirement. She stated the S911 course, APCO, and Priority are all compliant. She is still working to confirm on PowerPhone. She also noted that some classes on the approved list were outdated or did not have a documented number of hours. These classes are marked with red text indicating that they must be resubmitted for approval.
- d. Katrina Shamshak was not present but provided a report pertaining to TERT which is attached.

5. Appointee Reports

- a. SIEC – Corey Swift was not present. Greg Lynskey stated the October meeting had to be scheduled so no meeting has taken place.
- b. State 911 Commission –Kevin Lessard stated the Commission met on September 19 and the meeting was well attended. He stated it was a great meeting and was a long meeting. There were lots of questions about the outage in June. The next commission meeting is scheduled for December and will include approval of the FY26 Regional Development Grant guidelines. Commission members are currently reviewing the guidelines and any feedback from Commission members is due by November 17. He will be working on a response on behalf of the MCSA membership so reach out to him with suggestions. He stated that detailed information about the June outage will be fully documented in the Commission minutes. He noted that it was a 4th order issue that was something that was supposed to protect the system and instead took it down. He noted the ongoing poor communication from State 911 when there are issues was also discussed and that he asked for work to be done on that to improve. He also noted that an RFI will be forthcoming



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for replacement of the call handling software. A survey was released on Friday but didn't get to everyone. The survey link will be going out via the MCSA Constant Contact as well. State 911 is going to consider having PSAPs of all sizes part of the review team.

6. Treasurer's Report

- a. Warren Gould was not presented however provided a report that was read by Secretary Lynskey.
- b. Beginning balance was \$12,083.23.
- c. Total expenses was \$2,118.32 as follows:
 - i. \$78.07 to Katrina Shamshak for reimbursement for the September meeting refreshments
 - ii. \$40.25 for the Microsoft Office 365 monthly expense
 - iii. \$2,000.00 to Brian S. Hickey Associates for the September lobbyist retainer
- d. Total income was \$1,750.00 as follows:
 - i. \$1,250.00 for FY25 Dues payments
 - ii. \$500.00 for October 2024 Training Sponsor - MPI
- e. There were 79 paid members for FY2024. So far there are 12 paid members for FY2025. FY25 memberships are going out alphabetically and to date, agencies A through G should have received invoices. If you did not, reach out to Warren.
- f. New members: None
- g. Renewed members are listed on the attached report.
- h. Dan Walsh made a motion to accept. Second by Kevin Lessard. Unanimous vote.

7. Secretary's Report

- a. Secretary Lynskey thanked Ass't. Secretary Alexa Owen for completing the minutes for September which posted to the website last week and included in the meeting notice. He recommended they be approved as written. Jocelyn LaPlante made a motion to approve. Second by Anne Camaro. Unanimous vote.

8. Regional Vice President Reports

- a. Essex – Katrina Shamshak was not present but provided a report which is attached. Keenan Leonard-Solis stated that Boxford Communications is conducting a food drive with a drop off location at Boxford PD. He noted that it is great to see dispatchers giving back to the community.



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He also recognized Tyler Deschenes who did a lot of work on the communications side at the Topsfield Fair. He also listed several agencies that are currently hiring in the region.

- b. Middlesex/Suffolk – Anne Camaro stated there is an opening at Cambridge 911 for an Assistant Director of Training. There is also an opening for a Director for the new Framingham and Natick RECC.
- c. Southeast – Patrick Feeney was not present but provided an email that he had nothing new to report. Mike Gethin stated that several dispatchers from ROCCC were presented lifesaving awards pertaining to an incident in Rochester. He also noted that a South Shore RECC dispatcher had received her ENP. He also stated that he and Pat are working together on some plans to send some items to Buncombe County 911 in NC for hurricane relief. They have worked with Katrina as well who developed a list of needs that Buncombe has and it is available in Amazon and set up for direct shipment. It will be going out via Constant Contact.
- d. Worcester – Dan Walsh stated that he and Chris Carleton are working on getting out to increase membership He also noted some openings in the region.
- e. Hampden/Berkshire – Johnathan Danek stated his only update was that Wilbraham Regional had recently participated in the Hampden public safety night out.
- f. Franklin/Hampshire – Donald Tryon provided some information on upcoming trainings in the area including RIT for dispatchers being held in Southwick through DFS. He also stated that Western Mass CIT held a training in Franklin County however the class announcement was sent out late and only to police chiefs so it has been re-scheduled and sent out to dispatch centers. Upcoming classes are November 14 and January 23.

9. Committee Reports

- a. Training & Events Committee – Katrina Shamshak was not presented but provided a report. She recommends pricing for the annual training day to be set at \$325 for nonmembers and \$275 for members and was looking for input. Stephanie Brown stated it sounds very reasonable. She made a motion to set the prices as recommended. Second by Mike Gethin. Unanimous vote.
- b. Newsletter – Katrina was not present but provided a report.



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- c. Legislative – Johnathan Danek provided a detailed report about the status of the 911 SAVES Act which is attached. He further thanked the legislatures for their attendance today. Kevin Lessard stated he has been in conversation with the Boston 911 union's representative. While the legislative session is informal at this point, there won't be any formal or normal processes being followed. However both bills are still under consideration however the Speaker of the House and the Senate President have decided they are not pushing any of the reclassification bills for any groups at this time. He noted that the Commonwealth is 50th in the nation this legislative cycle for passing bills and therefore it will be an uphill battle for getting any action on the retirement bills this session. He noted the need to keep pushing hard through the end of the session. President Hastings stated there is a meeting at noon tomorrow with the lobbyist and the chair of the House Ways and Means.
- d. Emerging Technologies – Rob Verdone was not present and there was no report.
- e. Historical Committee – Butch Garrity was not present and there was no report.
- f. Outreach/Membership – Pete Kinnas stated the PSAP Leadership Scholarship awardees are in their first week of the CCM program in Oklahoma and he wished them the best of luck. He also said he has developed a challenge coin exchange program which is detailed in the monthly newsletter.
- g. Book Club – Khristy Lord was not present and there was no report.
- h. Peer Support Committee – Khristy Lord was not present and there was no report.
- i. Generic Training Manual Committee – Corey Swift was not present and there was no report.

10. President's Report

- a. President Hastings stated a Thank You card was received from Dispatcher Amy Gilliland for her award at the annual award ceremony.
- b. She reminded everyone that we are still looking for a second person for the Franklin and Hampshire Regional VP.
- c. She Stated 911 Goes to Boston is slated for April 9 and reminded everyone it is a very important day. Looking to get as many people to attend as possible to show a presence. If you plan to attend, a reminder that you must be using accrued time that day. Also, if you can't go, make



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an appointment with your local legislatures to meet with them. They all hold local office hours within their district.

- d. She asked all E-Board members to remain for a brief E-Board meeting following conclusion of the general meeting.

11. Other business

- a. No other business was heard.

12. Adjournment

- a. Kevin Lessard made a motion to adjourn at 11:52am, second by Dan Walsh.



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Curtis Boucher (In Person)
Stephanie Brown (In Person)
Anne Camaro (In Person)
Bob Coulombe (In Person)
Johnathan Danek (Virtual)
Alisa DeLeo-Laperle (In Person)
Ariann Dilorio (In Person)
Sabina Flaherty (Virtual)
Mike Gethin (In Person)
Kylie Gibbons (In Person)
John Gordon (In Person)
Brendan Gray (In Person)
Erin Hastings (In Person)
Roseline Hernandez (Virtual)
Natalie Hunt (Virtual)
Brian Kamp (Virtual)
Laura Kilgour (Virtual)
Peter Kinnas (In Person)
Jocelyn Laplante (In Person)
Keenan Leonard-Solis (In Person)
Shawn Lerner (Virtual)
Kevin Lessard (In Person)
David Luciano (Virtual)
Greg Lynskey (In Person)
Kristina Morin (In Person)
Caitlin Mroczek (Virtual)
Don Nagle (In Person)
Tom O'Brien (In Person)
James Officer (Virtual)
Jordan Oster (Virtual)
Peter Ostroskey (In Person)
Alexa Owen (In Person)
Mark Sayers (Virtual)
Katrina Shamshak (Virtual)
Mike Shaw (Virtual)
Chad Snow (In Person)



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Don Tryon (Virtual)

Monna Wallace (In Person)

Nicholas Waleszczyk (In Person)

Dan Walsh (In Person)



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Chad Snow (In Person)



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Monna Wallace (In Person)
Nicholas Waleszczyk (In Person)
Dan Walsh (In Person)



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Name	Agency/Business	Email
PETER KINNAS	911	ON FILE
John Gordon	SSRECC	" "
Erin Hastings	Westcomm	" "
Kristina Morin	911	on file
Bob Coulombe	Winchendon	on file
Nicholas Waleszczyk	911	on file
Arion Diiorio	WRECC	Diiorioa@worcestermar.gov
Keenan Leonard-Solis	Georgetown	on file
Tom D'Brien	Belmont	on file
Dan Walsh	Clinton	on file
Greg Lynsky	SWCCC	" "
Alisa DeLeo-Laperle	WRECC	DeLeo-LaperleA@worcestermar.gov
Mike Amigon	Westboro	on file
Don NAGLE	FEDERAL ENGINEERING CONSULTING	DNAGLE@FEDENG.COM
PETER OSTROSKY	FEDERAL ENGINEERING CONSULTING	POSTROSKY@FEDENG.COM
Mike Gethin	911	on file
Brendan Gray	Acton	on file
Alaya Owen	WRECC	" "



October 16, 2024 – Worcester RECC

Name	Agency/Business	Email
Jocelyn Laplante	WRECC	File
Kylie Gibbons	MA Senate - ^{Sen.} Fallman	kylie.gibbons@masenate.gov
Curtis Boucher	MA Senate - ^{Sen.} Durant	curtis.boucher@masenate.gov
Chad Snow	FirstNet	Chad.Snow@att.com
Mike Tringhese	Springfield 911	
Stephanie Brown	Beavertown	Sbrown@beavertownma.gov
Anne Camaro	NURDD	acamaro@nurddma.gov
Kevin Lessard	NURRECC	Klessard@nurrec.org



Viiz Overview for PSAPs



A partnership has been formed amongst the Department, Comtech and a professional call center company called “viiz”. **Viiz Communications** offers an emergency call center solution for public safety answering points (PSAPs), delivering the support and assistance necessary to navigate through even the most challenging situations.

Citizens and visitors of the Commonwealth will still dial 9-1-1 to report an emergency and the process will be seamless to the 9-1-1 caller. If a call fails to route within the Massachusetts NG911 infrastructure for any reason, this fail over mechanism will allow for 9-1-1 calls to be routed to a viiz call center located in the United States. This could include instances like a network infrastructure failure, or such things as a completely overwhelmed system due to a major incident where the calls remain unanswered.

Should a PSAP need to contact viiz for recordings or more information about a call, the 24/7 telephone number is provided below.

Important to Know About viiz

- The viiz call center displays a specific screen indicating that there is an incoming call for Massachusetts.
- Calls will be answered by viiz’s Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) certified 9-1-1 call takers with the greeting, **“Emergency Transfer Center, do you need Police, Fire or Medical?”**
- The viiz call takers will gather **callback (ANI) and location (ALI) information**, and **the nature of the call** to share with the Massachusetts PSAP’s call taker/dispatcher.
- **9-1-1 calls are transferred to the appropriate Massachusetts PSAP’s business lines by viiz.** Massachusetts business lines are set up as speed dials within the viiz system so that callers can be transferred to the appropriate PSAP business line.
- The viiz call taker will identify themselves as the **“viiz National Emergency Center”** when they transfer a call to the Massachusetts PSAPs.
- Viiz call takers will provide the Massachusetts PSAPs with all pertinent information regarding the call.
- Viiz will pass along the ANI that they receive for the call to the Massachusetts PSAP via **caller ID, if the Massachusetts PSAP’s business line provides it.**
- If an interpreter is needed, viiz will use their interpreter service for translation. When the call is transferred to the Massachusetts PSAP, viiz will remain on the call until the interpreter is no longer needed.
- TTY calls can be received and viiz call takers will voice relay the information to the Massachusetts PSAP regarding the call.
- Viiz call takers will make the call back to abandoned and hang up calls and communicate the caller information to the appropriate Massachusetts PSAP.
- **PSAPs can reach viiz 24/7 at (833) 248-1145.** This number should go directly to the emergency supervisors’ queue, who will have the ability to pull up data from any previous calls that have been taken.
- The viiz system does not recognize DTMF tones therefore is not able to detect number prompts from a 9-1-1 caller trying to use the “Silent Call Procedure”. Viiz will transfer the “Silent Call” to the Massachusetts business lines.
- Viiz does not receive text messages.

MCSA Treasurer report through 10/09/2024

Beginning balance (09/15/24) = \$ 12,083.23

Expenses:

Katrina Shamshak (September meeting refreshments)	= \$ 78.07 (09/24/24)
Microsoft Office 365 (monthly)	= \$ 40.25 (09/27/24)
Brian S. Hickey Associates (September lobbyist retainer)	= \$ 2,000.00 (09/27/24)

Expenses (total) = \$ 2,118.32

Income:

FY25 Dues payments	\$ 1,250.00
October 2024 Training Sponsor – MPI	\$ 500.00

Income (total) = \$ 1,750.00

BALANCE = \$ 11,714.91

72 FY21 Members

70 FY22 Members

89 FY23 Members

79 FY24 Paid Members

12 FY25 Paid Members to date (some deposits pending)

RENEWED MEMBERS: Amesbury, Athol, Beverly, Bourne, Boxford, Westwood

NEW MEMBERS: none this month

FY25 Membership are starting to go out (alphabetically), Agencies A through G should have received invoices already.

Respectfully submitted,

Warren Gould

Treasurer MCSA

Reference for yearly expenses

Constant Contact (yearly)	= \$ 490.92 (08/23/23) (\$40.91/month)
Siteground Webhosting (yearly)	= \$ 275.76 (05/28/24)
Johnson & Johnson (1 year) Eboard Insurance	= \$1,460.00 (08/01/23) (was \$1,416.00)

Gregory Lynskey (SWCCC)

From: Shamshak, Katrina C. (911) <Katrina.C.Shamshak@mass.gov>
Sent: Monday, October 14, 2024 10:55
To: Gregory Lynskey (SWCCC)
Subject: [External]Updates

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. If unsure, please consult your administrator before proceeding.

I have Supervisor interviews on Wednesday so I'm not sure if I will be logged on when it is my turn. Just in case here are my notes. Also I did ask Sandrine for the powerpoint and still haven't heard back.

MCSA 10/16 Update

TERT Updates:

MA TERT deployed 09/17, 09/20, 09/24 in Cambridge for Debriefing, Funeral, and CISM coverage.

Central TERT completed a mock deployment at Wachusett Regional 10/1

Southeast TERT completed a mock deployment at ROCCC on 10/1

Essex County VP Updates:

Sean Cullen of North Shore Regional 911 was promoted from Supervisor to administration supervisor

North Shore Regional 911 were on site at the Topsfield Fair for 10 days handling communications for Police & Fire.

Boxford Communications is hosting a food drive to benefit a local food pantry. It is running October 1- October 31.

Have continued to share information about MCSA meetings/newsletters in the ESSEX COUNTY 911 Facebook Page

Committee Reports

Training & Events:

October 23 0800-1700 the MCSA Training Workshop is scheduled in Milford at the State 911 Training facility. 65 People are registered and registration is closed.

March 12th MCSA Annual Training Day Renaissance Boston in Foxboro. Registration will open in November. This year thinking of for pricing \$325 for nonmembers and \$275 for members. Thoughts?

June Annual Meeting - Currently in talks with Southwick Zoo to arrange the annual meeting for June. They are checking the availability on June 11th or June 18th.

Newsletter:

As always looking for content for the newsletter. Sent email to all VPs looking for content, will do the same next month. Would love to get content from each area. I scour Facebook for content but the more the better.

Katrina C. Shamshak, RPL
Public Safety Dispatcher III
Training & QA Coordinator
Massachusetts TERT Coordinator
North Shore Regional 911 Center
Massachusetts State 911 Department
18 Manning Ave., Middleton, MA 01949

Main: 978-801-4911 x4163

katrina.c.shamshak@mass.gov

www.mass.gov/NSR911

Gregory Lynskey (SWCCC)

From: Keenan Leonard-Solis <KLeonardsolis@GeorgetownMa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2024 15:06
To: Gregory Lynskey (SWCCC)
Subject: [External]October MCSA Meeting Notes

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Hi Greg,

Here are my notes from today's meeting (Katrina and I had some overlap, so I added a few points where needed):

- **Boxford Dispatchers** are still accepting donations for their Fall Food Drive, benefiting the First Congregational Boxford Food Pantry. Donations can be dropped off through 10/31 at the Boxford Police Department, 285 Ipswich Road, Boxford. I love seeing initiatives like this, where dispatchers are finding ways to give back to the community!
- **Northshore Regional 911** sent several telecommunicators to assist with tactical dispatch at the Topsfield Fair. I also want to highlight the work of **Tyler Dechene**, a true public safety standout across Essex County. He's heavily involved in public safety at many levels across the county—works with Georgetown PD, Topsfield PD, Boxford PD, Middleton Fire, among other agencies. Tyler is a phenomenal asset to our industry and plays an instrumental role in the setup, operation, and breakdown of the communications operations at the fair each year.
- **Area hirings** (as seen on the CJIS Extranet and other postings):
 - Beverly: Full-time and part-time
 - Ipswich: Full-time
 - West Newbury: Part-time
 - *Also mentioned in the chat during the meeting (but which I did not mention): Merrimac is hiring 2 part-time dispatchers.*

Keenan Leonard-Solis

Dispatch Supervisor at Georgetown Police Department

47 Central Street, Georgetown, MA 01833

Work Phone 978-352-5700 **Fax** 978-352-5709

Web georgetownmapd.com

Email kleonardsolis@georgetownma.gov

Gregory Lynskey (SWCCC)

From: Patrick Feeney <pfeeney@semrecc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2024 09:52
To: Gregory Lynskey (SWCCC)
Cc: Gethin, Michael (911)
Subject: [External]Unable to Attend

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. If unsure, please consult your administrator before proceeding.

Good morning,

Unfortunately, I am unable to attend virtually this morning. I have nothing terribly new to add.

Regards,

Pat



Patrick W. Feeney
Operations Section Chief
Southeastern Massachusetts
Regional 911 District
C: 781.888.4680

Gregory Lynskey (SWCCC)

From: Johnathan Danek <jdanek@wilbraham-ma.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2024 11:57
To: Gregory Lynskey (SWCCC)
Subject: [External]Re: Legislative Committee Notes: Wed, Oct 16th

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Also, this is the direct link to track the bill's actions, cosponsors, etc for anyone who is interested:
<https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/6319>

Best regards,

Johnathan

From: "Johnathan Danek" <jdanek@wilbraham-ma.gov>
To: "Gregory Lynskey" <LynskeyG@swccc911.net>
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2024 11:52:17 AM
Subject: Legislative Committee Notes: Wed, Oct 16th

Hi Greg,

Below is my legislative committee notes from today's monthly meeting:

9-1-1 SAVES (Supporting Accurate Views of Emergency Services) ACT: as discussed at our last meeting, the Committee on Education and the Workforce recommended with a 42-0 vote that the bill be passed as amended. The official House report is available for review, it is House Report 118-692. The report was issued on Sep 19th, one day after our last meeting. The bill has been placed on the Union calendar, calendar number 586. For clarification: when a bill is placed on the Union Calendar in the U.S. House of Representatives, it means that the bill is eligible for consideration by the House for raising revenue or spending money.

Notable summaries from the committee report are as follows:

Section 2. Findings

Section 2 provides justification for OMB to reclassify public safety telecommunicators as first responders.

Section 3. Revision of standard occupational classification system

Section 3 directs OMB to consider reclassifying public safety telecommunicators as a protective service occupation. Section 3 also directs OMB to provide an explanation to the Committee and the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee in the event OMB does not make this reclassification. OMB must provide this explanation within 60 days of the publication of the next revision of the SOC.

NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY AND CBO COST ESTIMATE

H.R. 6319 would require the Office of Management and Budget to consider creating a separate occupational code for public safety telecommunicators (911 operators and fire dispatchers), when it next revises the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system. Those workers are often the first point of contact in an emergency. The SOC system is a federal statistical standard used to classify workers into occupational categories for the purpose of collecting, calculating, and disseminating data.

Since 1977, the SOC system has been revised four times--in 1980, 2000, 2010, and 2018--to reflect changes in the economy and the nature of work. Because of that ongoing but irregular activity, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 6319 would not significantly affect federal spending over the 2025-2029 period.

Thank you to our state legislators for joining us today, I hope we can count on your continued support in our reclassification efforts.

Best regards,

Johnathan Danek
Deputy Director of Regional Communications
Wilbraham Regional Emergency Communications Center
2780 Boston Rd, Wilbraham, MA 01095
P: (413)596-3837 / C: (413)888-8728 / E: jdaneke@wilbraham-ma.gov

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Forest Fire Control Overview



MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION &
RECREATION

BUREAU OF FOREST FIRE CONTROL AND FORESTRY



NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP

The National Wildfire Coordinating Group provides national leadership to enable interoperable wildland fire operations among federal, **STATE, LOCAL**, tribal, and territorial partners. Primary objectives include:

- Establish national interagency wildland fire operations standards. Decision to adopt standards is made independently by the NWCG members.
- Establish wildland fire **position standards, qualifications** requirements, and performance support capabilities (e.g. training courses, job aids) that enable implementation of NWCG standards.
- Support the **National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy goals**: to restore and maintain resilient landscapes; create fire adapted communities; and respond to wildfires safely and effectively.
- Establish information technology (IT) capability requirements for wildland fire.
- Ensure that all NWCG activities contribute to **safe, effective, and coordinated national interagency wildland fire operations**.



National Wildfire Coordinating Group



Mission Statement

The purpose of NWCWG is to coordinate programs of the participating wildfire management agencies to avoid wasteful duplication and to provide a means of constructively working together. The goal is to provide more effective execution of each agency's fire management program. The group provides a formalized system to agree upon standards of training, equipment, qualifications, and other operational functions.

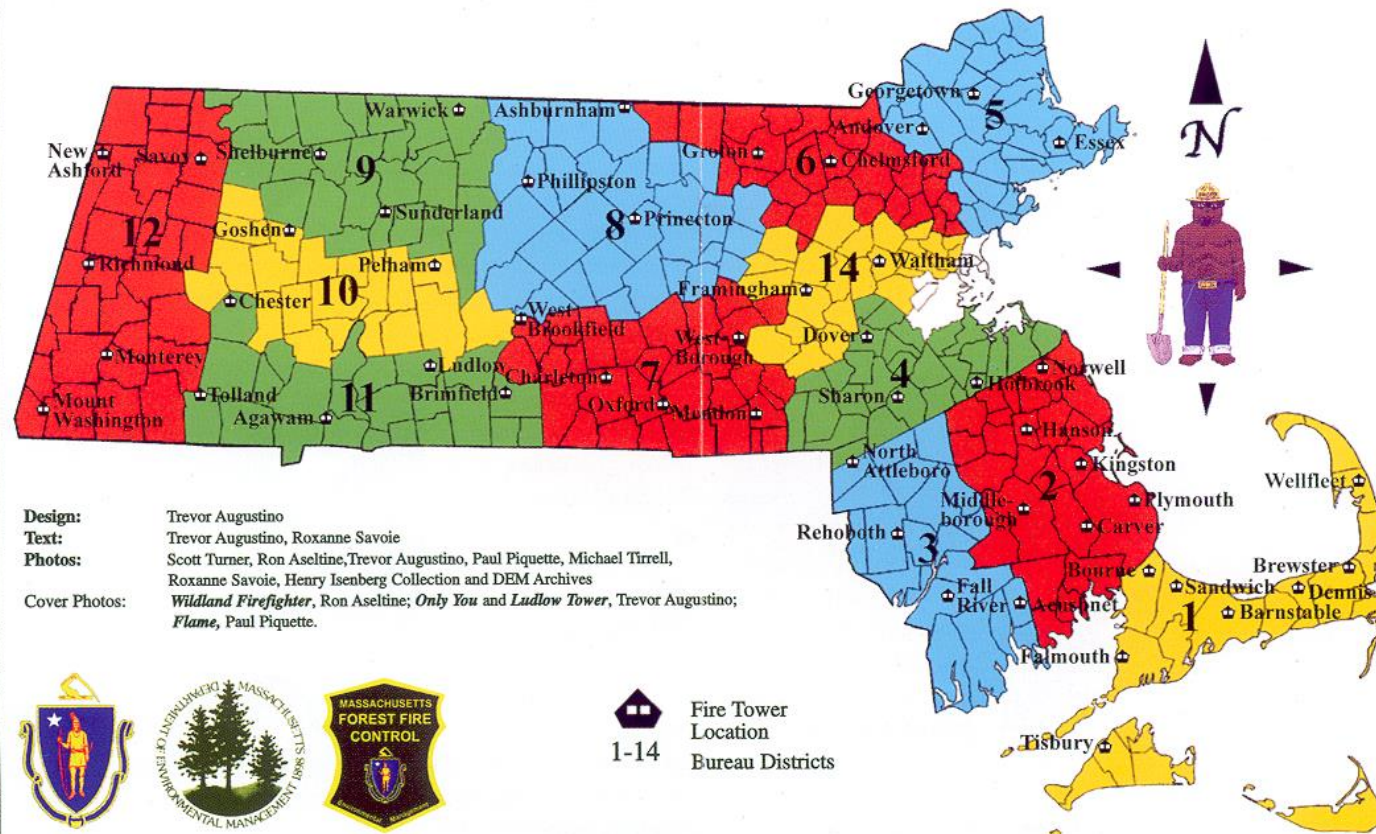
E-mail comments or suggestions pertaining to this or any NWCWG course to: nwcg_standards@nifc.blm.gov

NWCWG Website: <http://www.nwcg.gov/>



Programs

Massachusetts Bureau of Forest Fire Control Districts and Tower Network



Bureau of Forest Fire Control Services

- Suppression Assistance
- State Wildfire Occurrence Reporting
- Fire Detection / Fire Tower Network
- Prescribed Fire on State and Partnership Lands
- MEMA State Resource
- Federal Excess Property Program/VFA
- Wildfire Crew / National Mobilization
- Wildfire Training
- Community Wildfire Mitigation Planning/Assistance
- Fire Danger Rating / Fire Weather Intel





Northeastern Forest Fire Protection Compact (NFFPC)



Established in 1949, the Northeastern Forest Fire Protection Compact (NFFPC) promotes effective prevention and control of forest fires in the Northeastern United States and adjacent areas in Canada.

- Managed by a group of Commissioners selected by the agencies they represent, an Executive Committee composed of officers elected by the Commission annually, and an Operations Committee that consists of the fire supervisors in charge of the fire program within each member agency.
- The NFFPC is comprised of 7 working teams: Audit Committee, Equipment and Technology, Fire Science, Forest Health, Prevention and Education, Resource Sharing, and Training.
- The Northeastern Interagency Coordination Center (NECC) operates under a signed cooperative agreement between the Northeastern Forest Fire Protection Compact (NFFPC) and multiple federal agencies. Its mission is to provide safe, cost effective, and timely coordination of resources for Wildland Fire and All Hazard Incidents. NECC will coordinate with all Northeastern Forest Fire Protection Compact agencies to meet organizational objectives in an equitable manner while maintaining support for Local, Geographical, and National needs.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- ▶ Fire Control: Aid, Assist & Advise
- ▶ Wildfire suppression is the responsibility of the local fire department.
 - ▶ FIRE CHIEF HAS JURISDICTION ON ALL FIRES IN MASSACHUSETTS

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Massachusetts Bureau of Forest Fire Control has been providing aid, assistance and advise to the cities and towns since 1911

- ▶ Prevention
- ▶ Detection
- ▶ Suppression

RESPONSIBILITIES

Massachusetts Emergency
Management Agency

MEMA

- ▶ Aid and assist in disaster or civil emergency
- ▶ First Responder Certified
- ▶ Trained in Search and Rescue Operations

District Fire Suppression Resources



Federal Excess Property Program

- ▶ U.S. Forest Service Fire Program
- ▶ Delivered by State Forester
- ▶ Provides Surplus Equipment to State Agency, and Municipalities
- ▶ 33% of DCR FIRE Fleet is from Federal Excess Property.
- ▶ Current moratorium on DCR Fleet use of FEP.

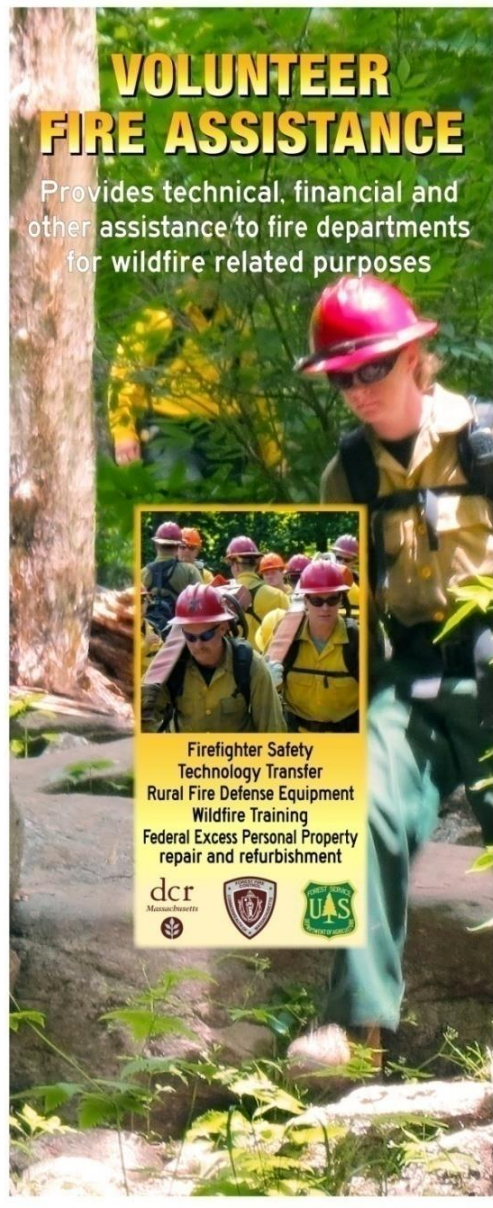
-2015..... \$ 6.5 million in equipment value provided to Massachusetts cities and towns by DCR.



Programs

Volunteer Fire Assistance VFA Grant

- ▶ Grants to towns with a population of less than 10,000
- ▶ 80% of Dept is on/call
- ▶ Training, tools, equipment



VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSISTANCE

Provides technical, financial and
other assistance to fire departments
for wildfire related purposes

Firefighter Safety
Technology Transfer
Rural Fire Defense Equipment
Wildfire Training
Federal Excess Personal Property
repair and refurbishment





	2018	2019	2020	2021	2023
Project Amount	162,233	161,673	112,414		
Amount awarded	56,072	43,603 Not Final	\$70,356	\$ 75,815	\$ 90,000
# of applications received	51	36	41	44	41
# of applications awarded	51	36	41	44	41
Comments	Awarded 100% of all approved proposals/ this year	Awarded 100% of all approved proposals/ this year	Complete	Also funded 8 Wildfire hand tool Cache's	

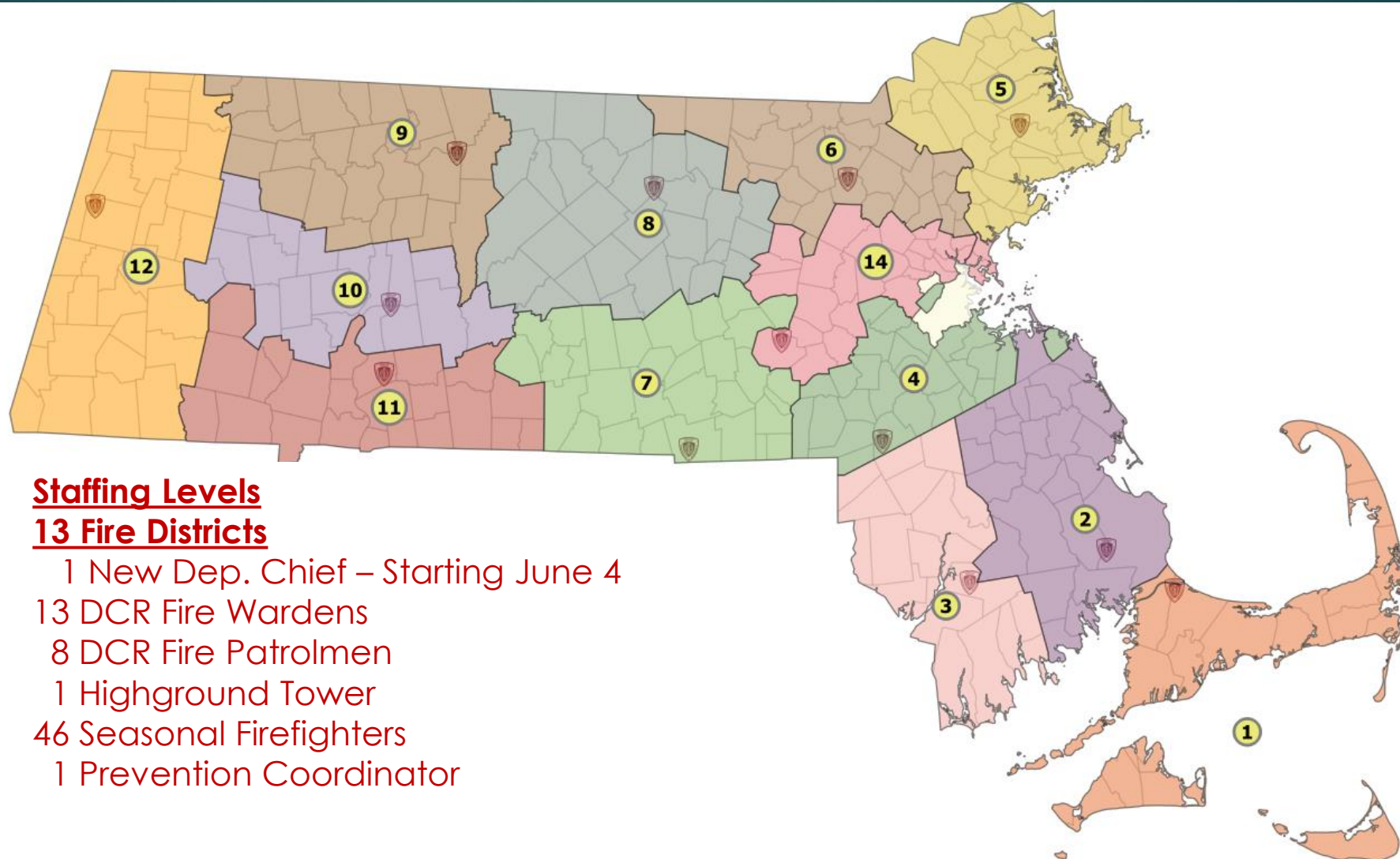
Programs

Training and Instruction

- ▶ Fire Behavior and Suppression
- ▶ Conduct Demonstrations
- ▶ Specialized Training

DCR Bureau of Forest Fire Control

Fire District Locations



Staffing Levels

13 Fire Districts

- 1 New Dep. Chief – Starting June 4
- 13 DCR Fire Wardens
- 8 DCR Fire Patrolmen
- 1 Highground Tower
- 46 Seasonal Firefighters
- 1 Prevention Coordinator

DCR / MANG / MSP

Air Operations Assistance

DCR Role:

- Assessment of need.
- Air to Ground Coordination and Communication.

Recent Missions:

- Norton MSP
- Southwick MANG, MSP
- Leverett MSP
- Orange MANG
- Hampden MANG
- Gloucester MANG
- Breakheart MANG
- Northborough MSP



Interagency Out-of-State Firefighting DCR Massachusetts Wildfire Crew

- Coop Agreement with U.S. Forest Service
- NE Fire Compact Member
- Mobilizing Since 1985
- 2016- 0 Crews 0 Res
- 2017- 1 Crew Compact BC
- 2018- 2 Crews 1 Sing Res
- 2019- 0 Resources
- 2020- 0 Resources
- 2021- 37 Resources to
 - MT, ID, CA, MN
- 2023- 2 Crews to Quebec
 - - 1 Crew to Montana
 - -1 RADO to CA



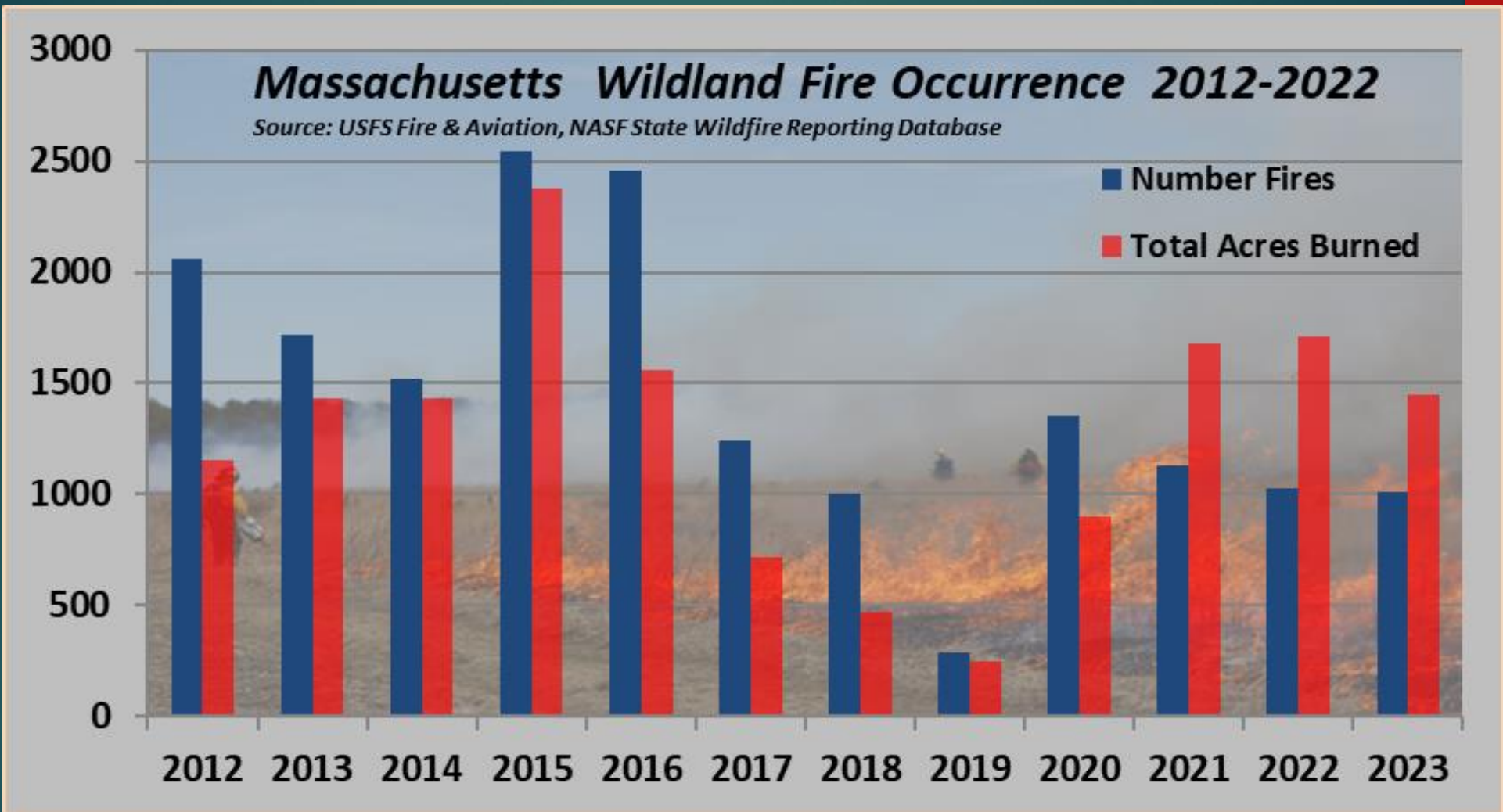
2023 Prescribed Fire

- 50 Prescribed Fire Operations
 - DCR
 - DFW
 - USFWS
 - Joint Base Cape Cod
 - Municipal
 - NGO's and Private
- Total of over 1,898 acres treated.



Myles Standish State Forest



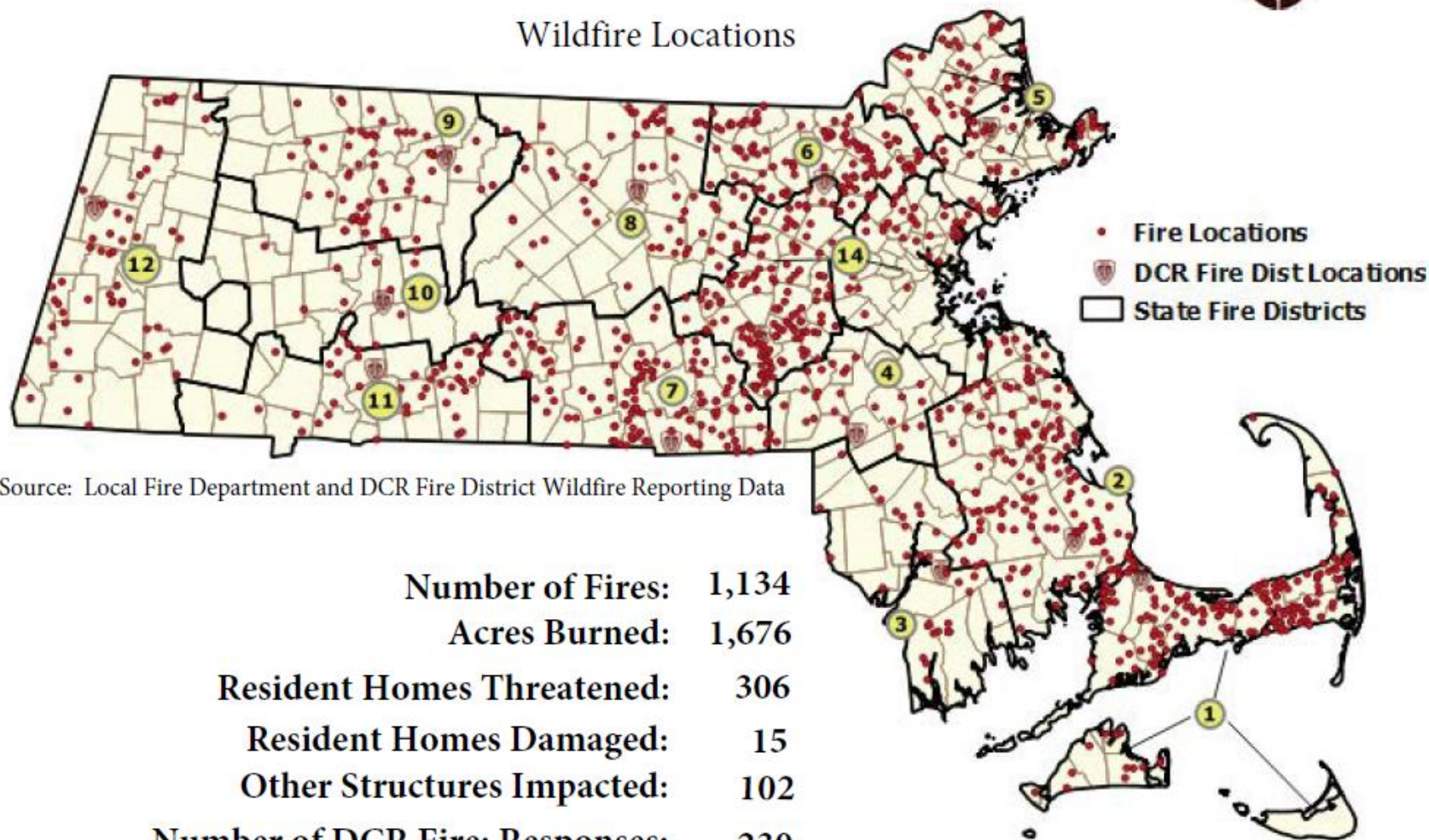




MASSACHUSETTS WILDFIRE OCCURRENCE 2021 SUMMARY



Wildfire Locations



Source: Local Fire Department and DCR Fire District Wildfire Reporting Data

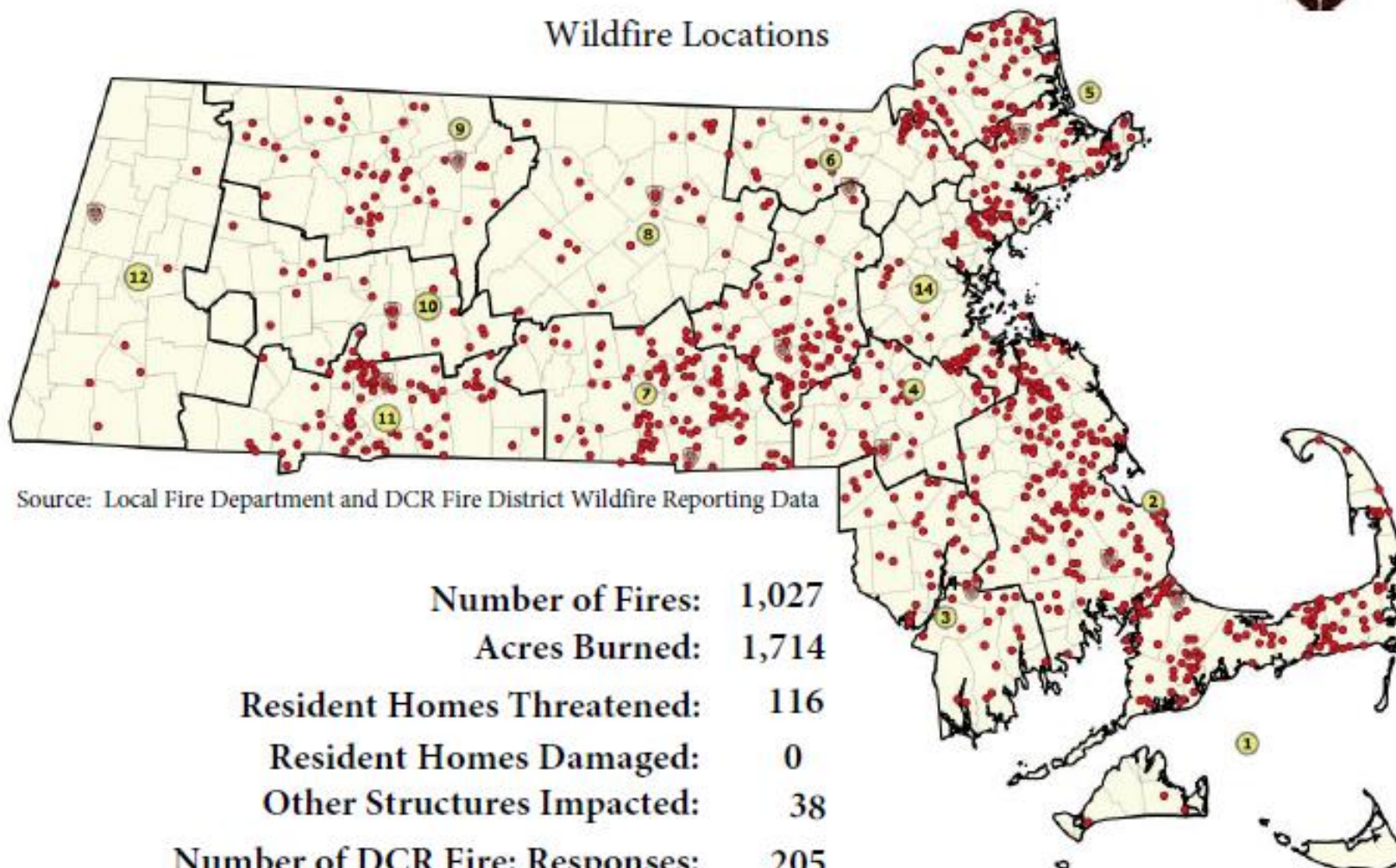
Number of Fires:	1,134
Acres Burned:	1,676
Resident Homes Threatened:	306
Resident Homes Damaged:	15
Other Structures Impacted:	102
Number of DCR Fire: Responses:	230



MASSACHUSETTS WILDFIRE OCCURRENCE YTD November 28, 2022



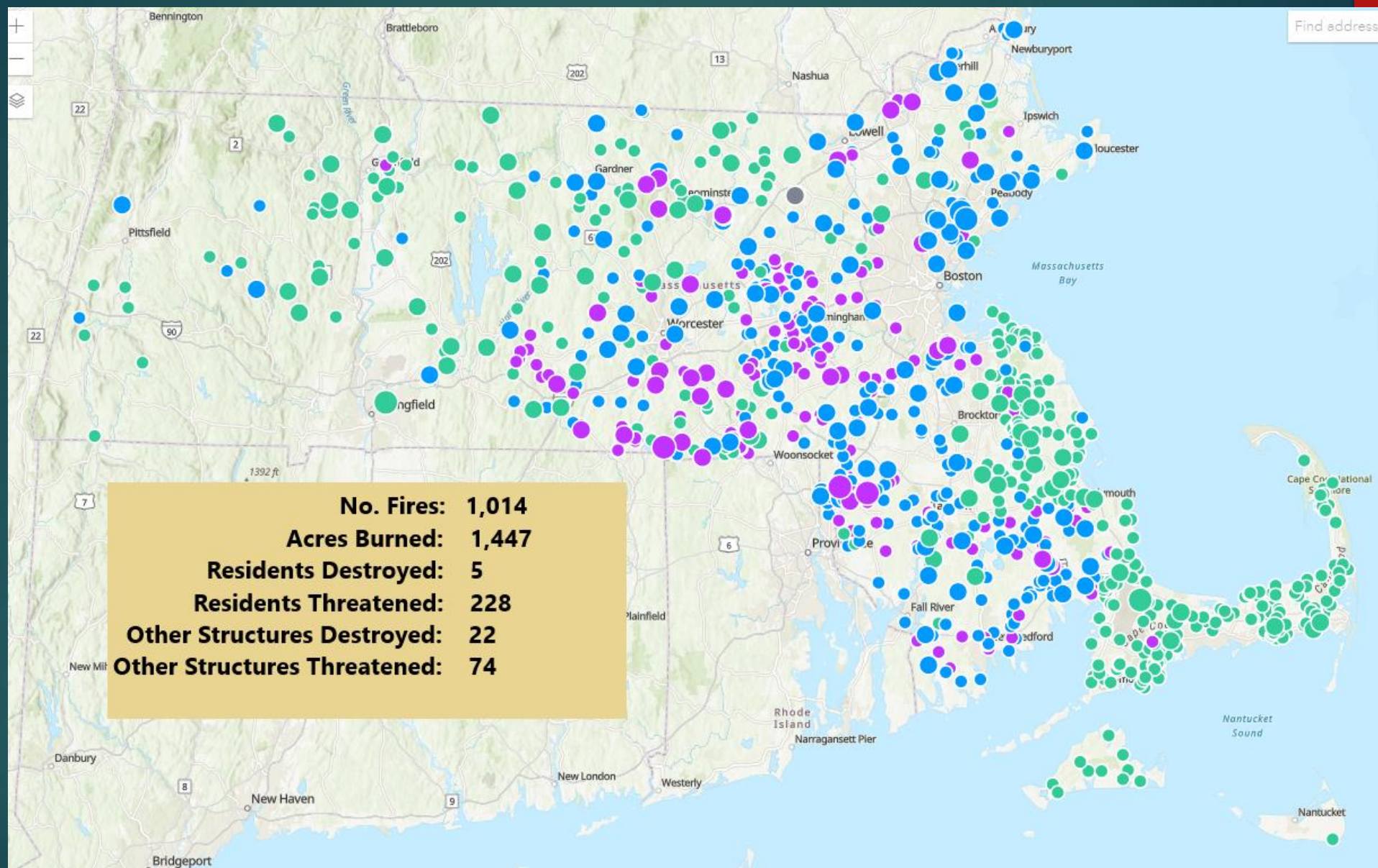
Wildfire Locations



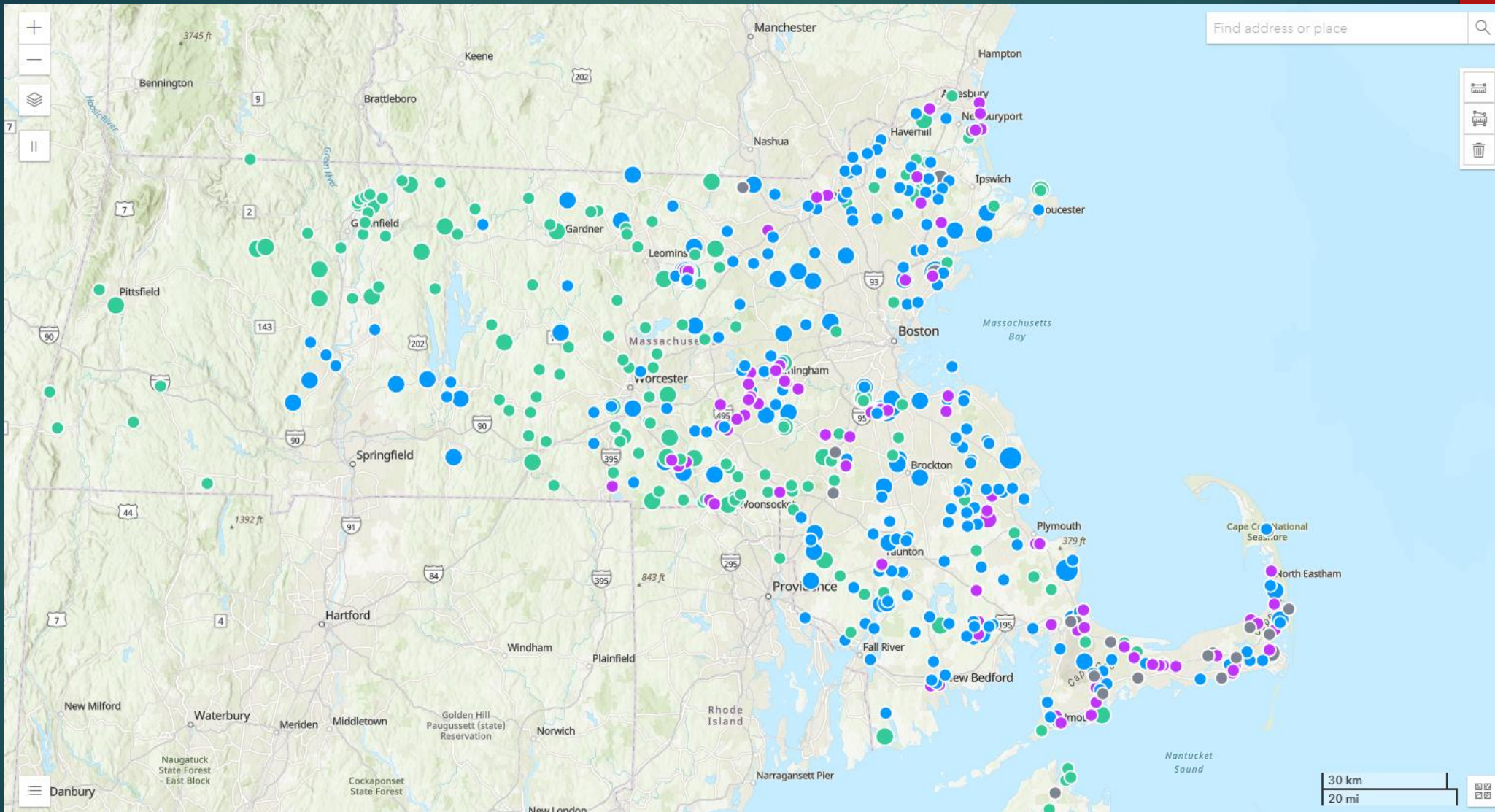
Source: Local Fire Department and DCR Fire District Wildfire Reporting Data

Number of Fires:	1,027
Acres Burned:	1,714
Resident Homes Threatened:	116
Resident Homes Damaged:	0
Other Structures Impacted:	38
Number of DCR Fire: Responses:	205

2023 Fire Occurrence



2024 Year to Date Fire Occurrence



Total Fire: 559
Total Acres: 577.69

Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS)

- ▶ Currently Fire Control RAWS online.
- ▶ 7 more to go online within the next year.
- ▶ RAWS continually calculate: Temperature, Relative Humidity, Wind, Rain, and Barometric Pressure. To aide in daily fire danger ratings.



Fire Danger Ratings





Understanding Fire Danger using the National Fire Danger Rating System

 5 EXTREME	Fires start quickly, spread furiously, and burn intensely. All fires are potentially serious. Every fire start has the potential to become large. Expect extreme, erratic behavior. No outdoor burning should take place in areas with extreme fire behavior. Fire restrictions are generally in effect.
 4 VERY HIGH	Fires start easily from all causes and immediately after ignition, spread rapidly and increase quickly in intensity. Spot fires are a constant danger. Both suppression and mop-up will require an extended and very thorough effort. Outdoor burning is not recommended. Fire restrictions may be in effect.
 3 HIGH	All fine dead fuels ignite readily and fires start easily from most causes. Unattended brush and camp fires are likely to escape. Fires spread rapidly and short-distance spotting is common. Fires may become serious and their control difficult unless they are attacked successfully while small.
 2 MODERATE	Fires can start from most accidental causes, but with the exception of lightning fires in some areas, the number of starts is generally low. Expect moderate flame length and rate of spread. Although controlled burning can be done without creating a hazard, routine caution should be taken.
 1 LOW	Fuels do not ignite readily from small firebrands although a more intense heat source, such as lighting, may start fires in duff or punky wood. Weather and fuel conditions will lead to slow fire spread, low intensity and relatively easy control with light mop-up.
	RED FLAG WARNING a short term, temporary warning indicating the presence of dangerous combinations of temperature, wind, relative humidity, fuel or drought conditions which can contribute to new fires or rapid spread of existing fires – Can be issued at any Fire Danger level.

FIRE DANGER MAP



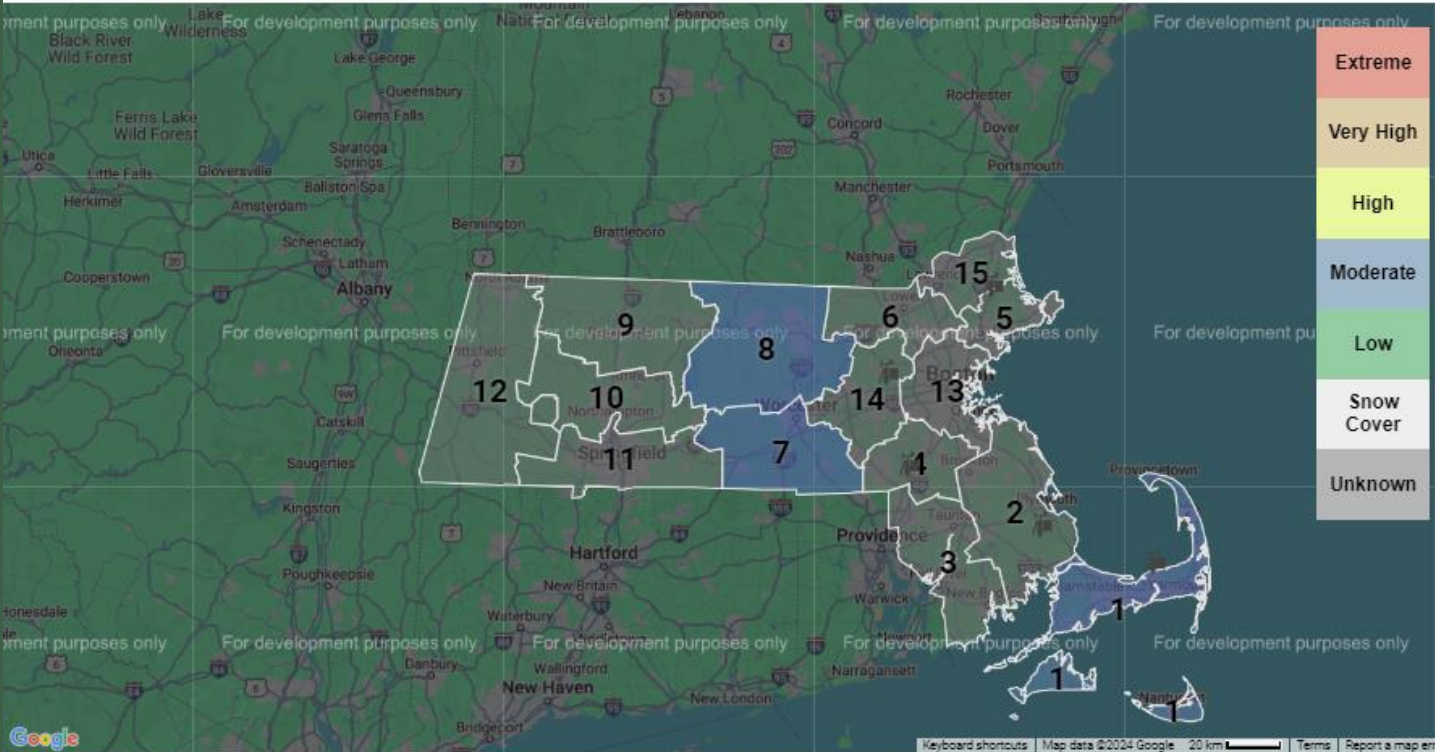
MASSACHUSETTS FOREST SERVICE WILDFIRE DANGER REPORT

[FIRE DANGER MAP](#)[STATION DATA](#)[SUBSCRIBE](#)

Fire Weather

This map shows today's fire danger classes and is updated daily at 9:00am.

Last Update: Oct 15 2024, 8AM



dcf
Massachusetts

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Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF)
Massachusetts Forest Service — Division of Forest Protection
22 State House Station, 18 Elkins Lane, Augusta, ME 04333
(207) 287-3200 | (800) 437-1220 | TTY: Massachusetts Relay 711
DACF@mass.gov

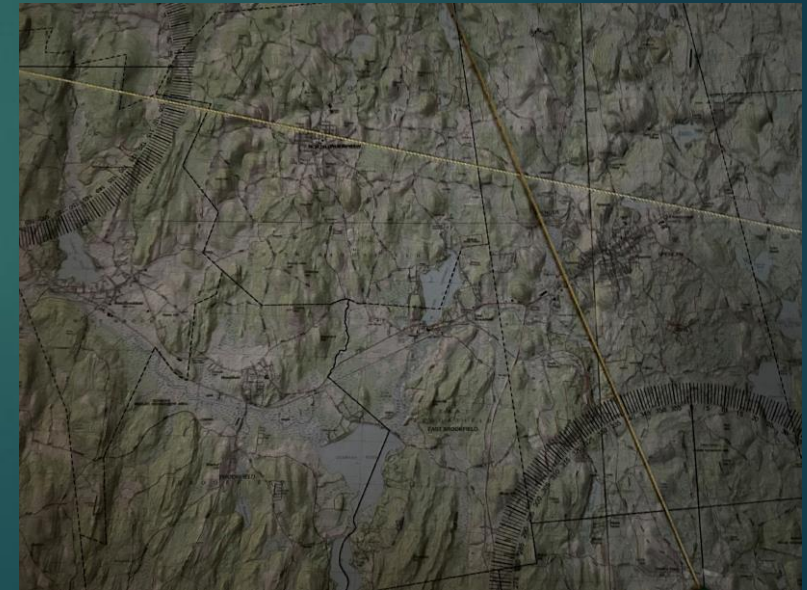
FIRE TOWERS



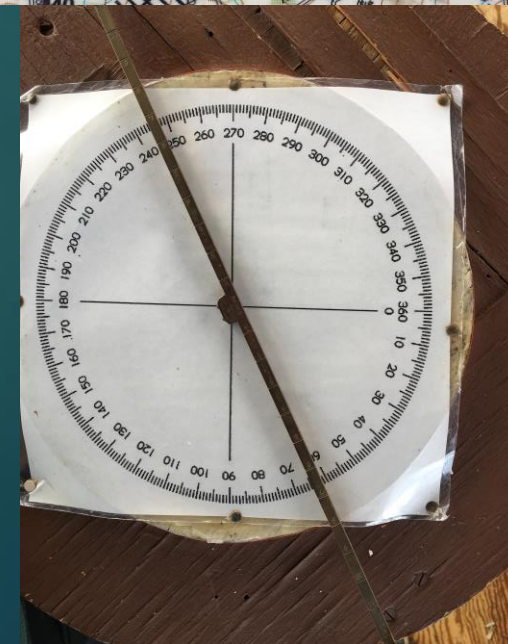
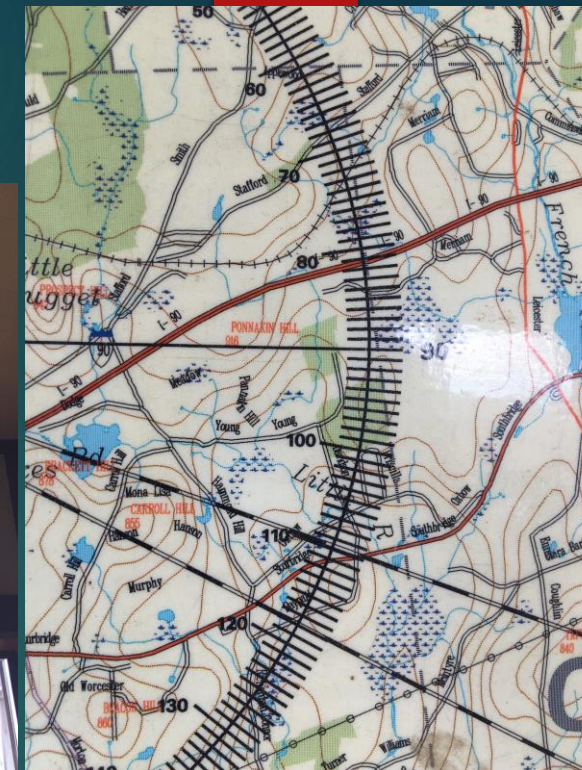
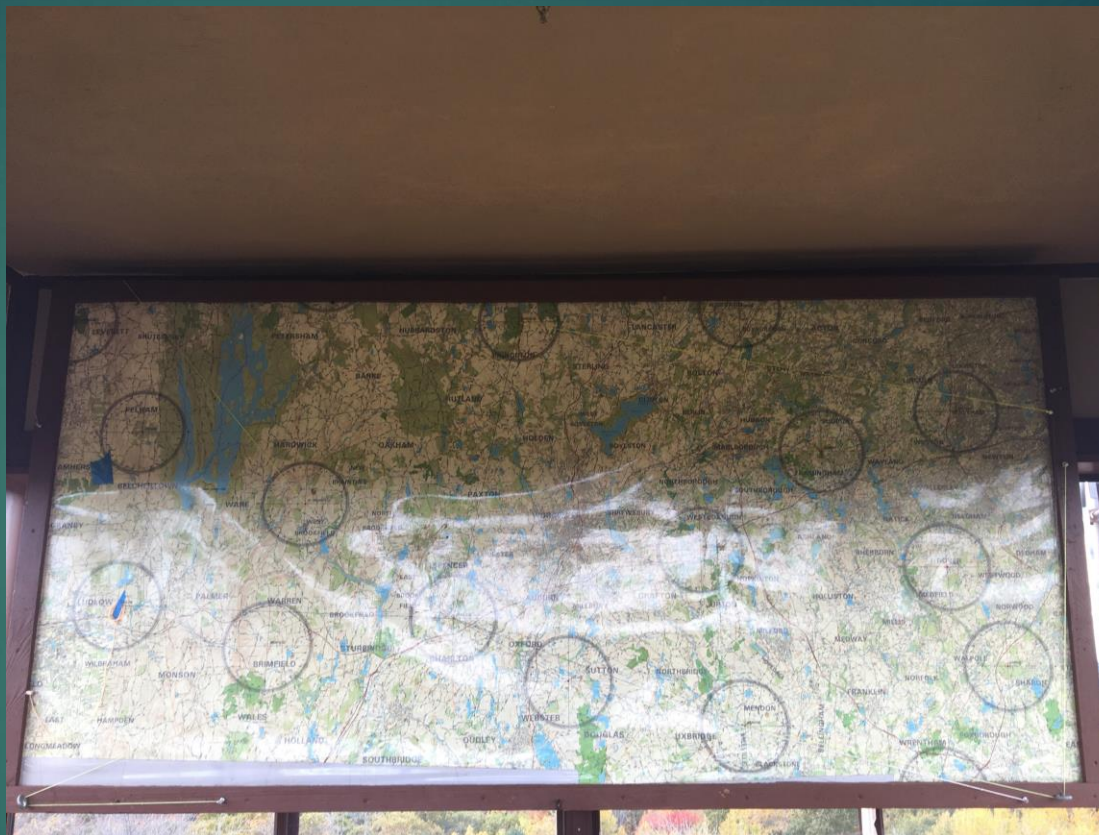
- ▶ 42 Towers Statewide
- ▶ Staffed 7 days a week 1000-1800hs (as fire weather and staffing dictate)
- ▶ Staffed March to November

FIRE TOWER OPERATIONS

- ▶ Fire towers locate fire using triangulation with other towers.
- ▶ Fire tower operators use an Alidade (fire finder) to sight the fire and read the location in degrees from North.
- ▶ The operator runs a line out on the map board using the degree they sighted.
- ▶ Where the lines cross is the fire location.



FIRE TOWER OPERATIONS



District Warden:
Roy J. Liard, Jr.

roy.liard@mass.org

508-400-6396 cell

508-476-7006 office

