Lunch & Learn Webinar Series

Community Resilience Partnership

Round 7

Series Overview

- Supports communities preparing for Community Action Grants
- Highlight real-world CRP-funded projects from peer communities
- Connect participants with state resources, tools, and technical support
- Offers tips to help communities prepare strong grant applications

COMMUNITY
RESILIENCE PARTNERSHIP

Series Schedule

- March 25: Mobilizing Volunteers for Resilience Projects (video available)
- April 1: Waste Diversion & Circular Economy (video available)
- April 15: Flood Resilience & Vulnerability Assessments (video available)
- April 29: Powering Resilient Communities (video available)
- May 11: Wildfire-Ready Communities: Trends, Planning, & Resources

Visit the CRP Website to Register and for Zoom Recordings

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PARTNERSHIP

Round 7 Updates

Up to $5.25 million available in this grant round

Community Action Grants

- **Application Deadline:** June 5, 2026, 5 P.M. EST

Service Provider Grants

- **Next Application Deadline:** May 15, 2026, 5 P.M. EST

New opportunity!

Nature-based Design TA Opportunity

- **Application Deadline:** June 19, 2026, 5 P.M. EST

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PARTNERSHIP

You're Invited: Stronger Communities Summit

June 10, 2026
Wells Conference Center at the University of Maine
131 Munson Rd, Orono, ME 04469

Register at https://CRP_Stronger_Communities.eventbrite.com

Panel topics:

- ***Community Innovation: Meeting the Moment***
- ***Making Projects Happen: Leveraging Partnerships and Funding for Lasting Impact***
- ***The Hidden Work of Resilience***
- ***From Projects to Stories: Building Narratives That Last***

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PARTNERSHIP

Building Wildfire-Ready Communities in Maine:

Trends, Planning, and Resources

May 11, 2026

Dana Ludwig, Senior Climate Planner, Maine DACF

Kent Nelson, Forest Ranger Specialist, Maine Forest Service

Julia Maine, Chebeague Island

John Lortie, Long Island

Webinar Reminders

Please remain muted during the presentations

Use the Q&A box to submit questions throughout the session

We'll address questions during the Q&A portion at the end

This webinar is being recorded and will be shared with participants afterward

List of Community Actions & Wildfire

- Eligibility for no-match grants

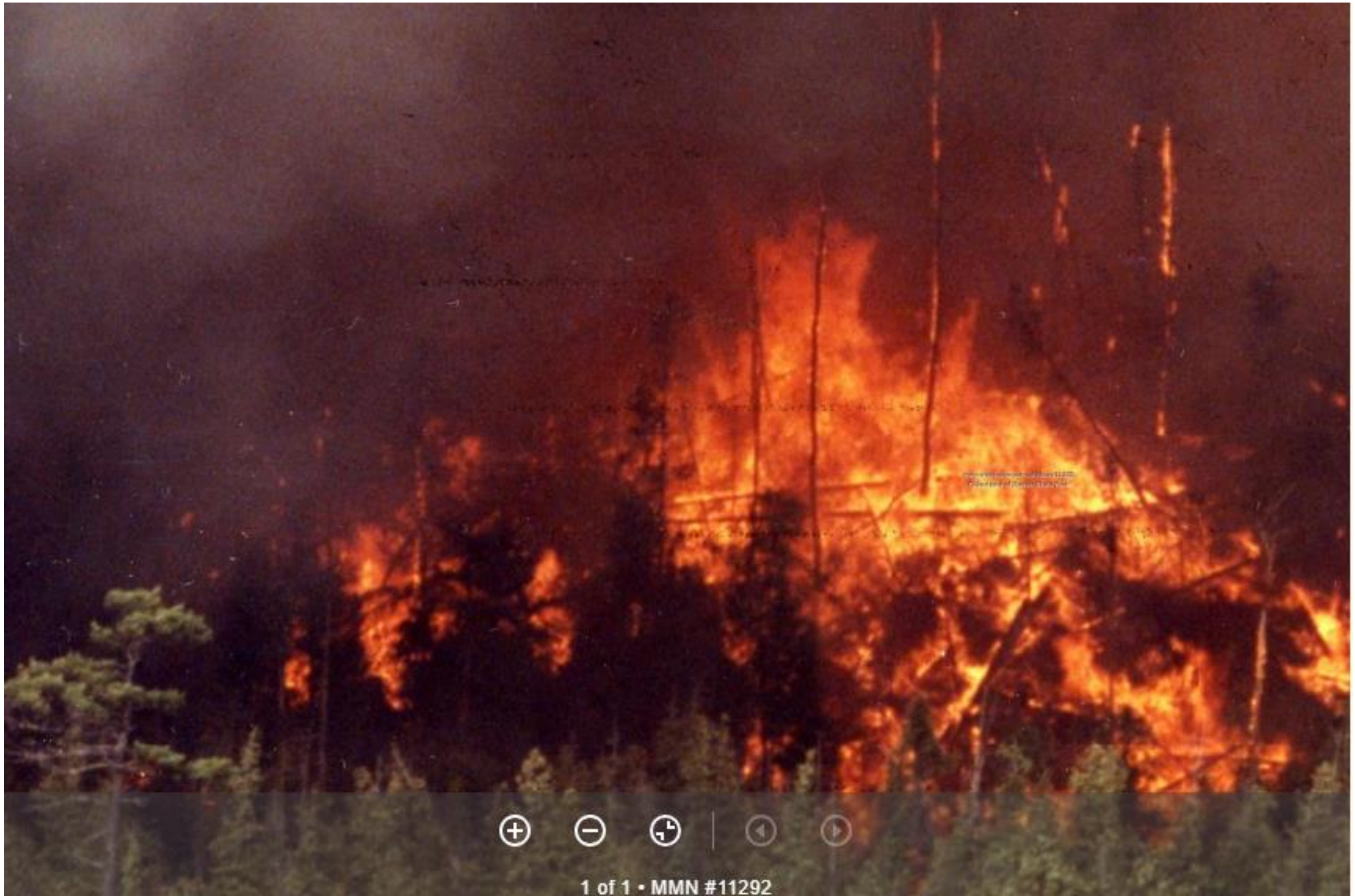
Strategy Area F: Building Healthy and Resilient Communities

- **F2** Adopt a climate resilience plan that describes strategies for **reducing risk and vulnerabilities**
- **F3** Conduct a **vulnerability assessment that identifies climate risks and vulnerable populations** and includes a review of existing plans and policies.
- **F22** Identify and plan to **reduce public health threats** in the community that are exacerbated by climate change.

Maine's Forest Rangers
Protecting Maine's Forests and homes from wildfire since 1891

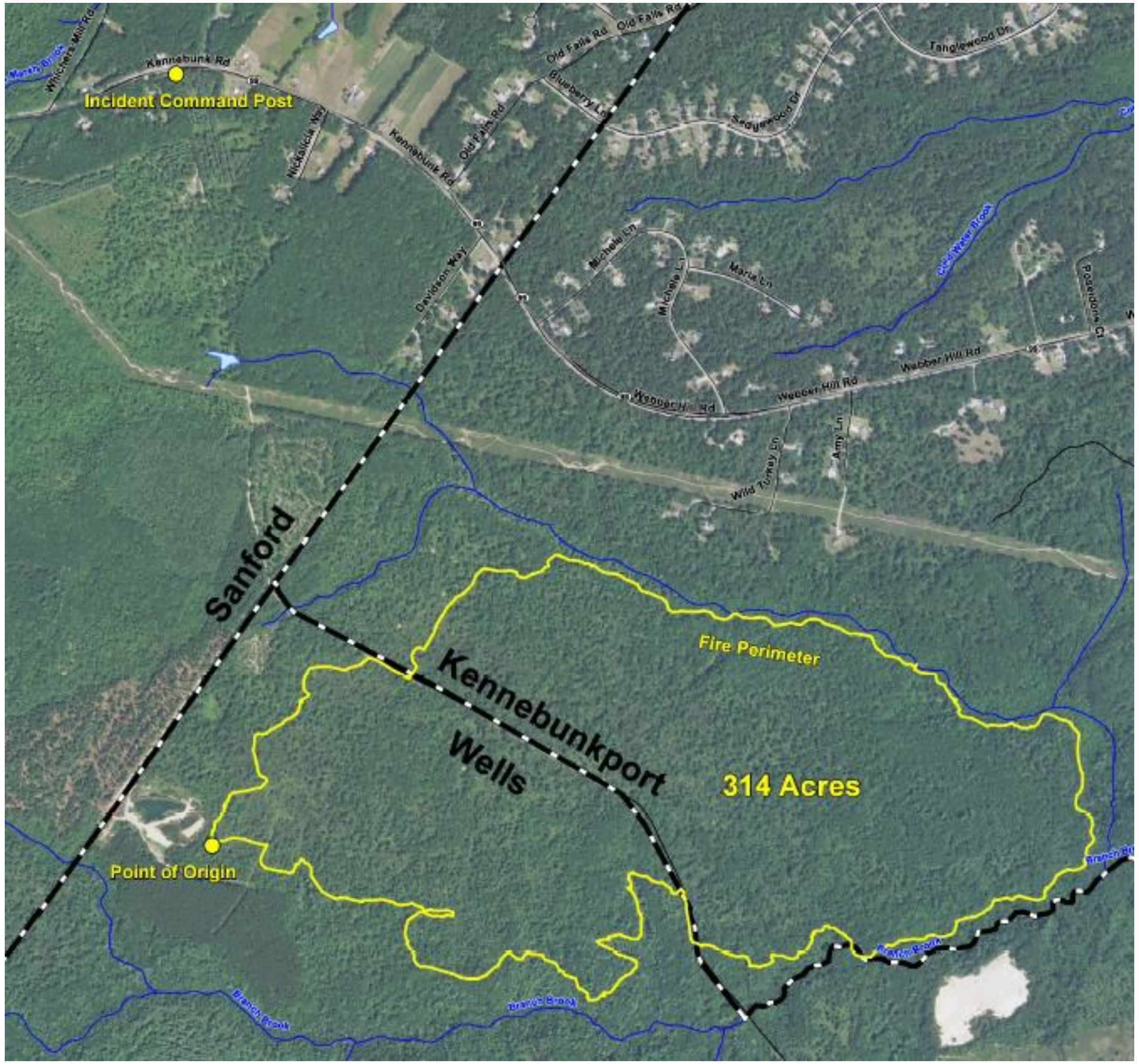
Significant wildfires in Maine – 1947 fires “The year Maine burned”

Baxter State Park Fire in 1977



Addison fire in 2006 – 495 acres

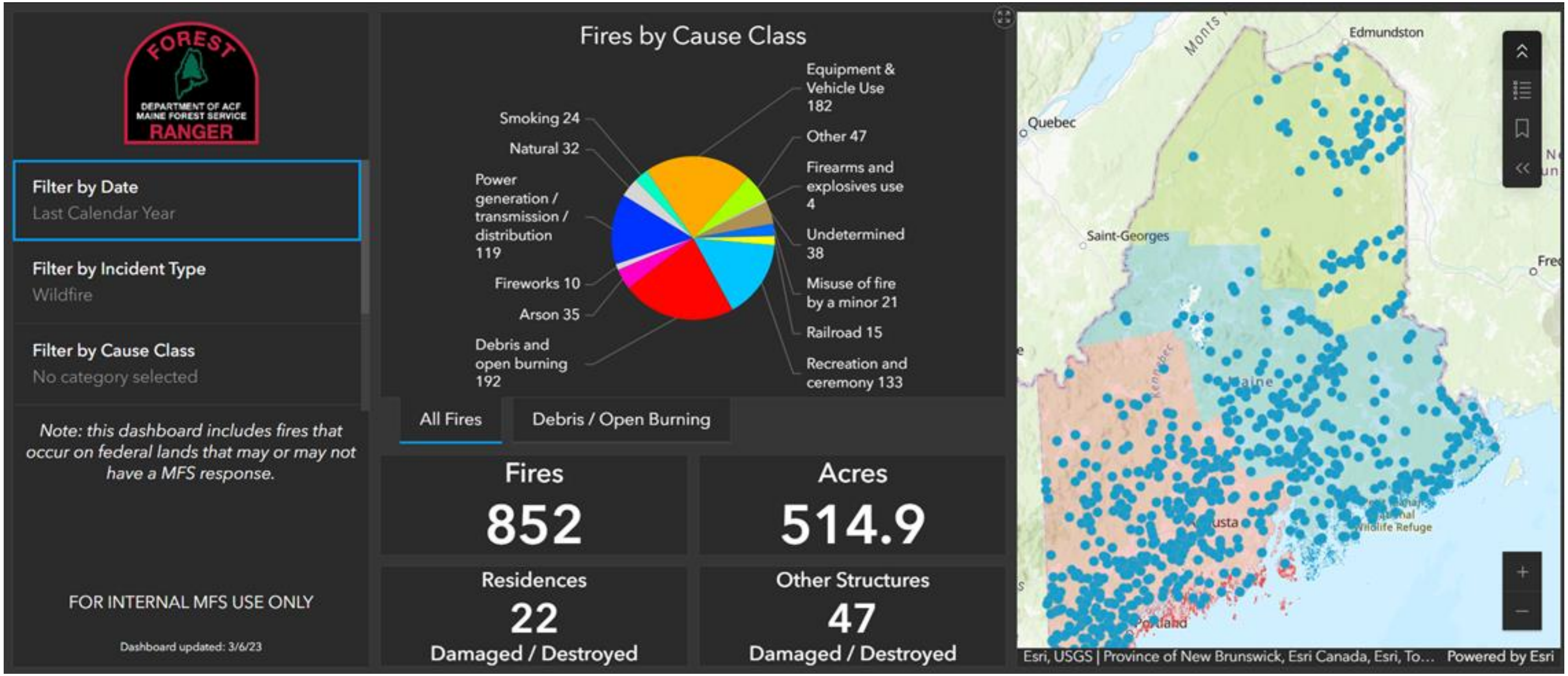
Branch Brook Fire in Kennebunk in 2020 – 314 acres



Sheep Island Fire, Harpswell – 4 acres in 2016

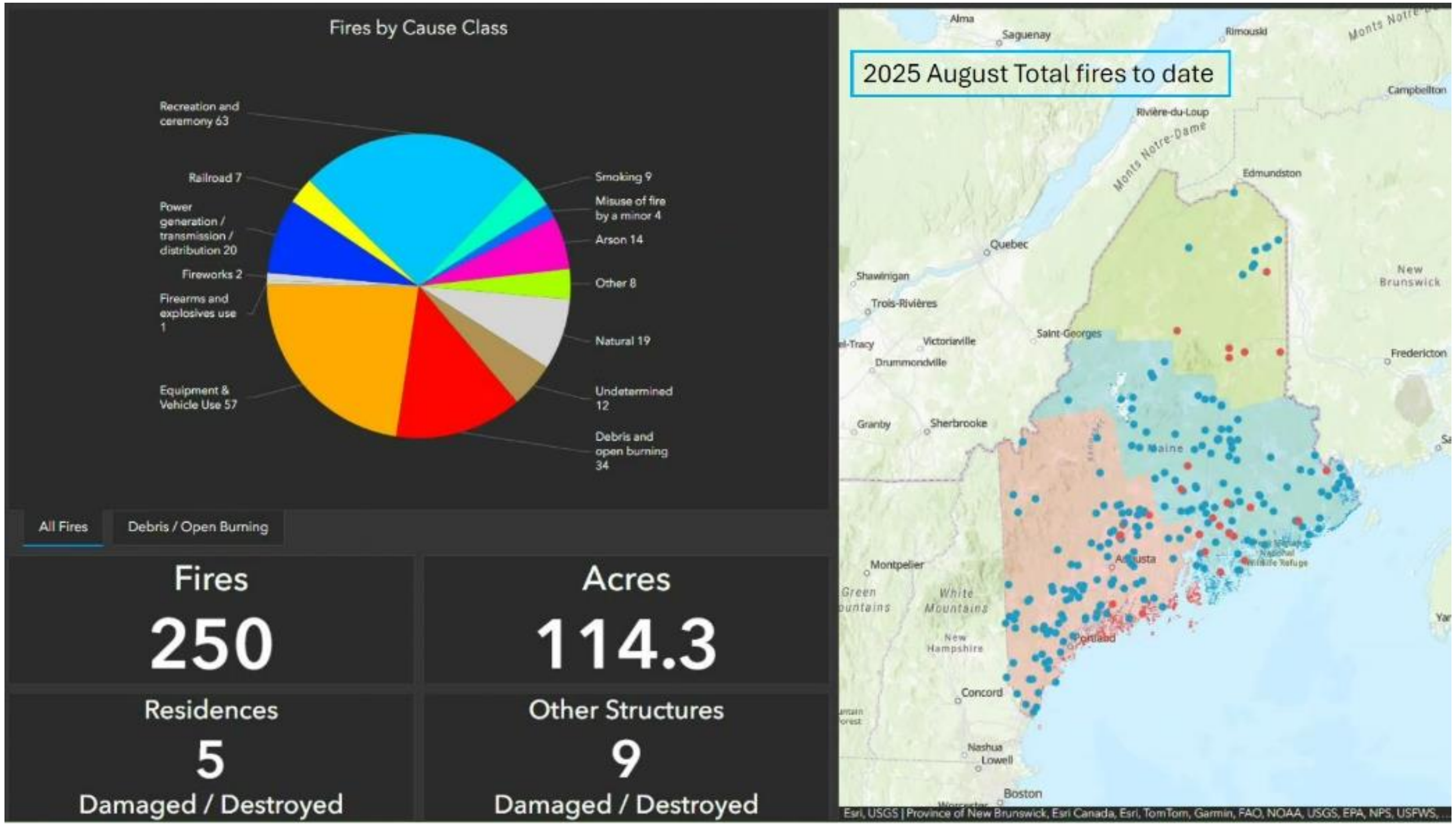
Sheep Island Fire – threatened 6 homes

2025 Fire Season Overview

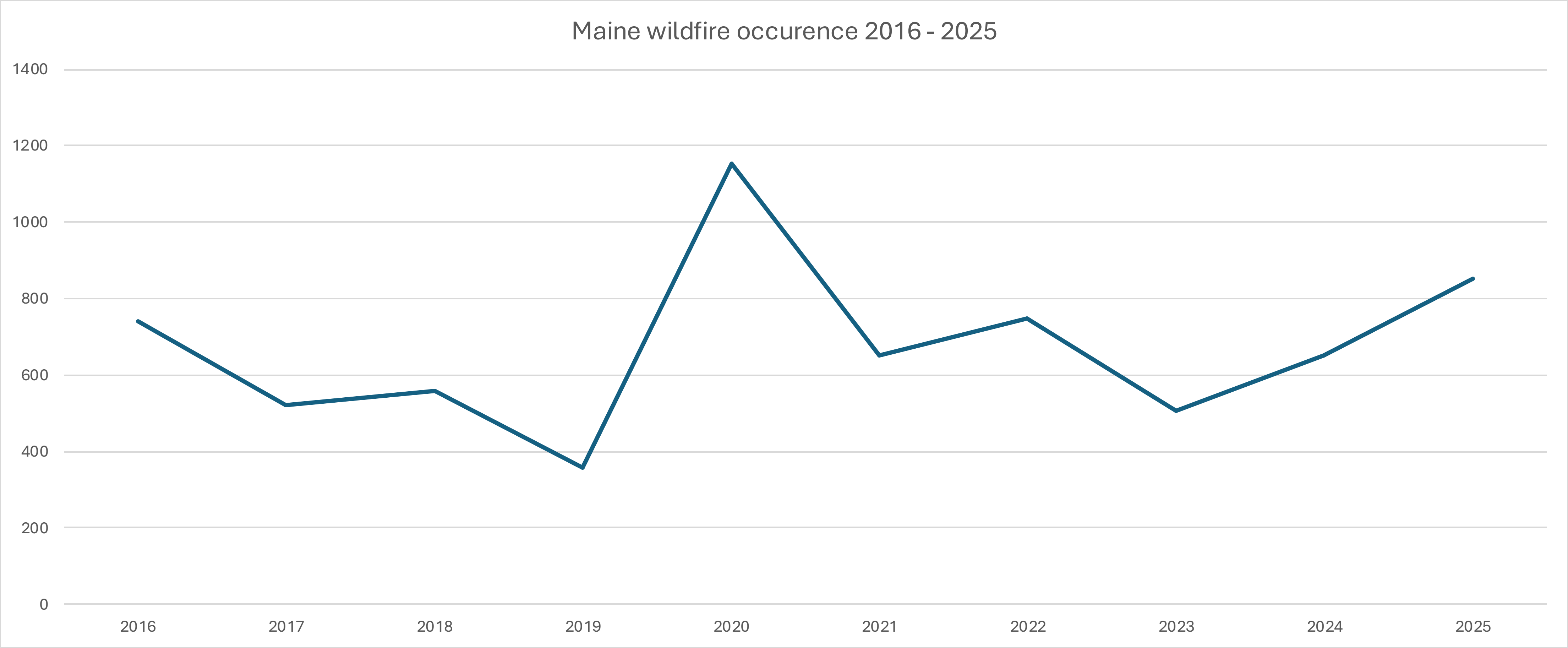


2025 Fire Season Overview – Structures damaged or destroyed

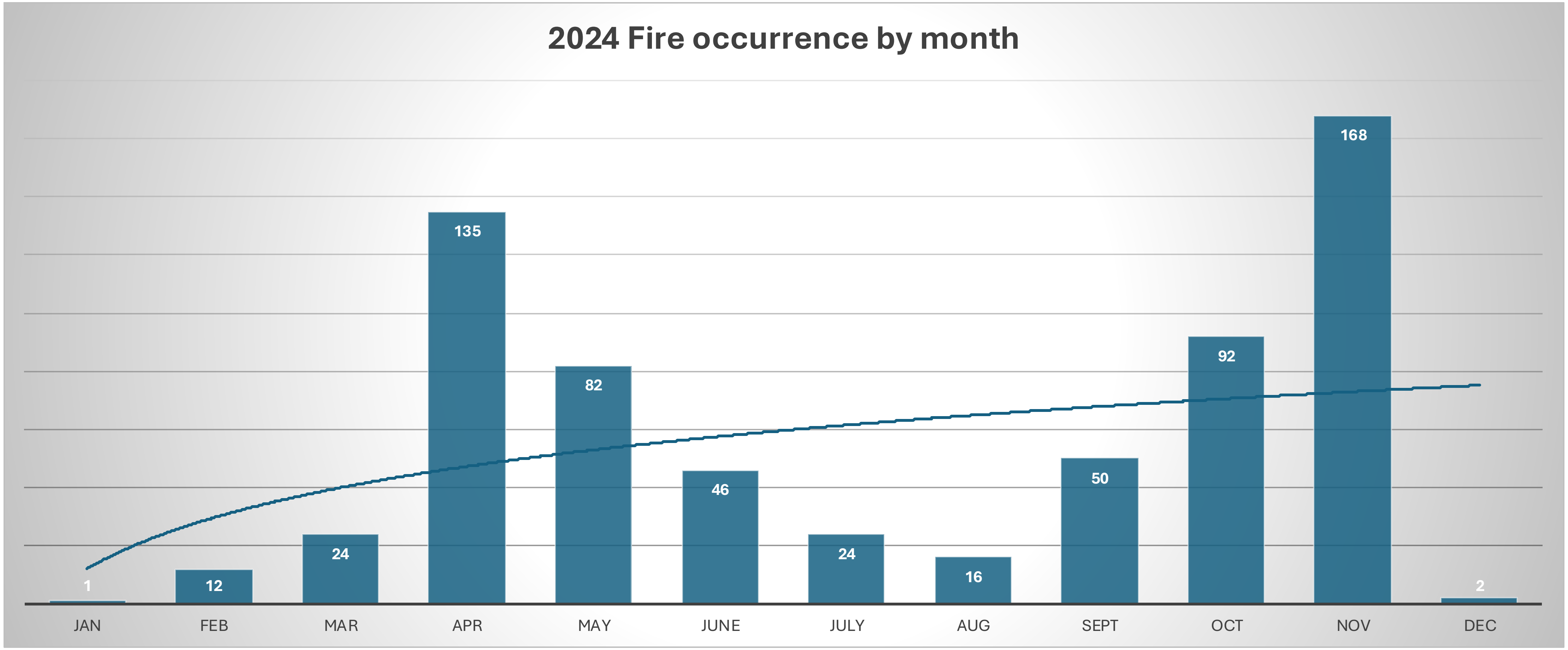
2025 Fire Season Overview – Fires in August 2025



Wildfire Trends in Maine



Wildfire Trends in Maine



Managing Risk to Homes and Communities

Image: The Nature Conservancy conducts a prescribed burn in York County, Maine. Dana Ludwig

Three ways a structure can ignite from a wildfire:

- Embers blowing ahead of the fire ignite the structure, or debris/materials on it or nearby
- Radiant heat from flames burning nearby
- Direct flame contact

Wildfires do not need to be large or intense to damage or destroy a home.

Even small fires can ignite homes.

Image: Homes ignite during the 2023 Tantallon Complex in Nova Scotia. NS Department of Natural Resources.

Ways to reduce risk near a structure:

Home hardening

- Noncombustible roofing
- Screening vents to exclude embers

Defensible space

- Reducing dead plant material
- Keeping trees spaced and pruned

Other considerations

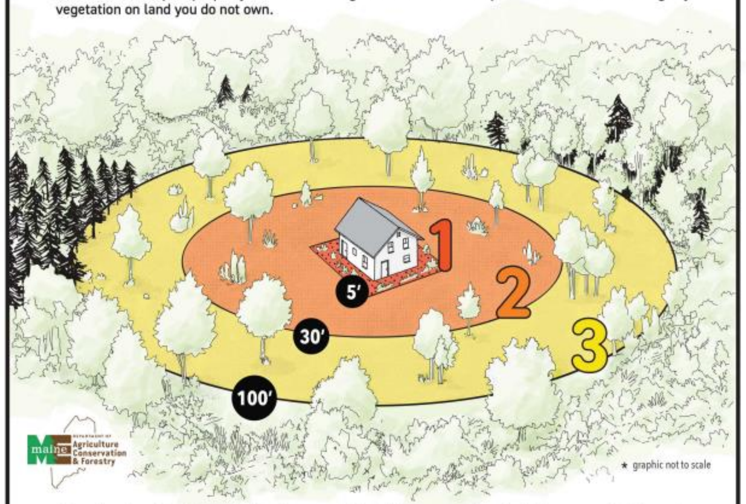
- Water supply
- Ingress/egress
- Emergency vehicle turnarounds

Image: Dense vegetation that, if found near a home, could increase risk to the structure. Dana Ludwig.

Home Ignition Zone Graphic from MFS and LUPC

HELP KEEP YOUR HOME SAFE FROM WILDFIRE

This document provides general examples of activities that may help reduce risk of home ignition from wildfire. State and local laws, including shoreland zoning, may limit how much vegetation you can clear, especially if you live near a lake, stream, or river. You must abide by all requirements that apply to your property. If unsure, check with an official from your municipality or the Land Use Planning Commission. Respect property boundaries and get written landowner permission before removing any vegetation on land you do not own.



To reduce the risk of home ignition from a nearby wildfire, vegetation should be managed differently based on how far away it is. Goals for each zone are listed below. Zone 1 should be your first priority.

ZONE 1

0 ft to 5 ft from structure

- Live plants are watered, pruned, well-spaced, and not touching the structure.
- No dead leaves or needles are on the ground.
- Non-combustible materials such as rocks are used instead of mulch.
- Softwood branches are pruned to avoid touching the structure or the ground.

ZONE 2

5 ft to 30 ft from structure

- Tree crowns are not touching each other or the structure.
- Surface vegetation does not form a contiguous path from the forested area to the structure (pockets of shrubs and small plants are acceptable).
- The lower 1/3 of softwood branches are removed.

ZONE 3

30 ft to 100 ft from structure

- Trees and shrubs are thinned to reduce continuity between the forested area and Zone 2.
- Groups of trees are separated from each other to avoid crown fires.
- Ladder fuels leading from the ground to tree canopies are removed.

HELP KEEP YOUR HOME SAFE FROM WILDFIRE

ZONE 1 : 0 ft to 5 ft from structure

Zone 1 is intended to help prevent structure ignition from wind-blown embers and reduce the chances of a wildfire burning close to a structure along the ground. Using gravel or another noncombustible groundcover is important. If you prefer, maintaining mowed, irrigated grass can also be acceptable. Any landscaping present should be well-spaced, pruned, watered, and not in direct contact with the structure. Hardwood (broad-leafed) trees and shrubs are preferable to softwood (needle-leafed) trees and shrubs. Softwoods have more resin in their bark and less moisture in their leaves, and are more likely to ignite than live hardwoods. Leaf litter, needles, twigs, and other dead plant matter should be routinely removed from this zone. Do not store wood piles, trash, gasoline, or other combustible materials here. Maintain Zone 1 within five feet of each structure on a property, including sheds and outbuildings, in addition to the main home or structure.

ZONE 2 : 5 ft to 30 ft from structure

Zone 2 is intended to reduce the intensity of a wildfire as it approaches a structure and to reduce the chances for plants and objects near a structure to ignite. Mowed, irrigated lawns are acceptable in this zone, but may not always be feasible for homeowners in remote settings or those limited by vegetation retention requirements from state or local agencies. Trees and shrubs in this zone should be separated from each other or should be in well-spaced groups to help reduce fire intensity and minimize fire spread from a forested area to a structure. Hardwoods are preferable to softwoods. Remove the lower 1/3 of branches from softwoods and reduce ladder fuels that could allow ground fire to spread to tree crowns. If possible, irrigate vegetation in this zone during times of drought.

ZONE 3 : 30 ft to 100 ft from structure

Zone 3 is intended to reduce the intensity of a wildfire as it approaches a structure and to reduce the risk of a crown fire (a fire that spreads from treetop to treetop) burning near a structure. Thin trees in this zone to create well-spaced groups and remove lower branches from softwoods. Minimize contact between tree crowns and reduce ladder fuels that could allow a surface fire to ignite tree crowns. If possible, retain more hardwoods than softwoods. Create gaps, separating shrubs and other low-growing plants into groups with space in between.

DISCLAIMER :

This document provides general examples of activities that may help reduce the risk of home ignition from wildfire. State and local laws, including shoreland zoning, may limit how much vegetation you can clear, **especially if you live near a lake, stream, or river**. You must abide by all requirements that apply to your property. If unsure, check with an official from your municipality or the Land Use Planning Commission. Respect property boundaries and get written landowner permission before removing any vegetation on land you do not own.

For more information, contact the Maine Forest Service. If you live in the LUPC service area, you may also contact an LUPC representative with questions about applicable rules.

Land Use Planning Commission:
Phone: (207) 287-2631
Web: maine.gov/dacf/lupc/about/contact

Maine Forest Service:
Phone: (207) 287-2791
Email: maine.forestrangers@maine.gov
Web: maine.gov/dacf/mfs/forest_protection

Image: https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/forest_protection/firewise/downloads/WILDFIRE_GRAPHIC_combo.pdf

Community Considerations: Land Use

- Ingress and Egress:
  - Road dimensions
  - Multiple ways in and out
  - Turnarounds
- Wildland-Urban Interface:
  - % of homes exposed during a wildfire
- Topography:
  - Steep slopes can increase fire risk

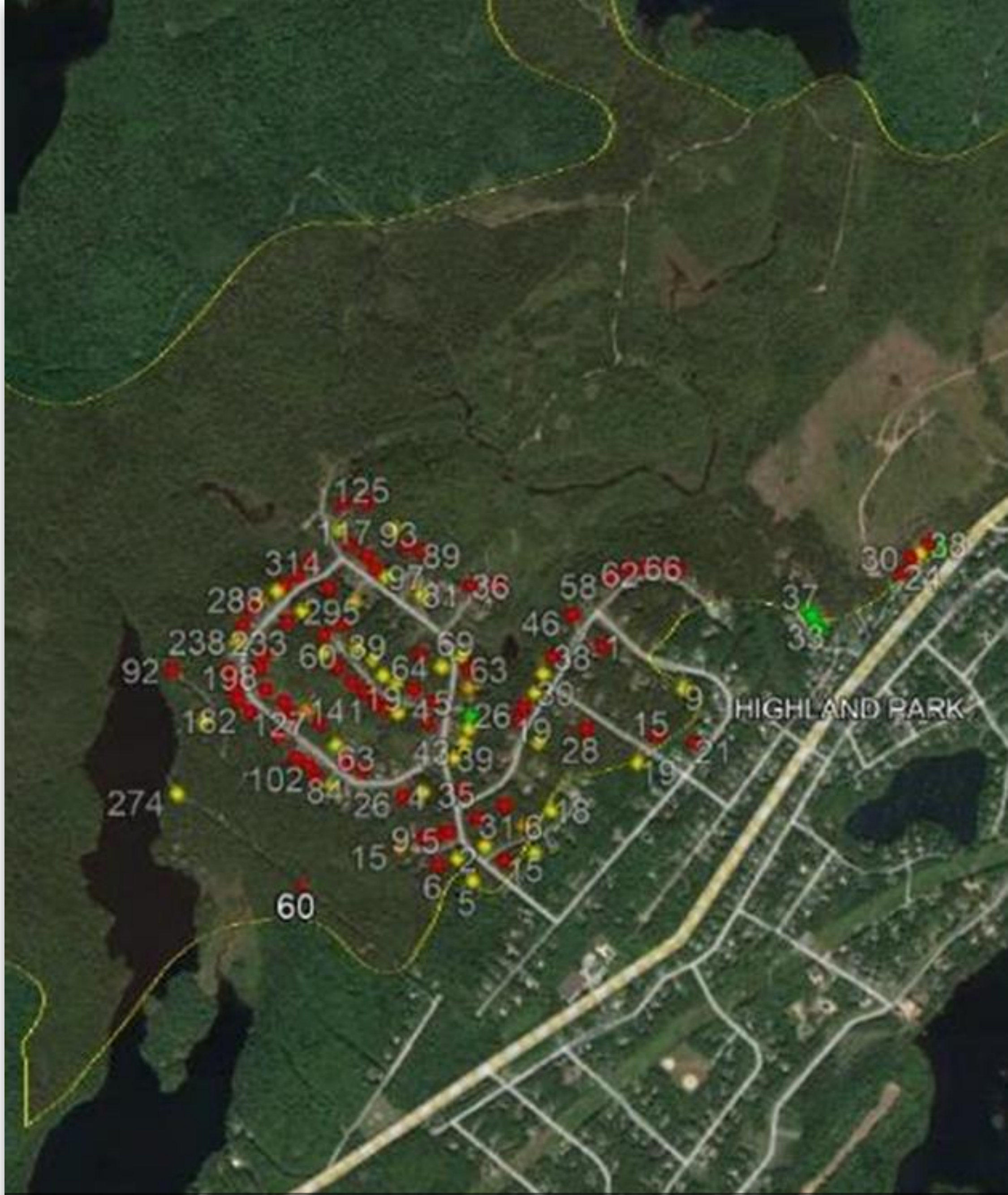


Image: Homes impacted by the 2023 Nova Scotia wildfires.
NS Department of Natural Resources.

Community Considerations: Land Use

- Ingress and Egress:
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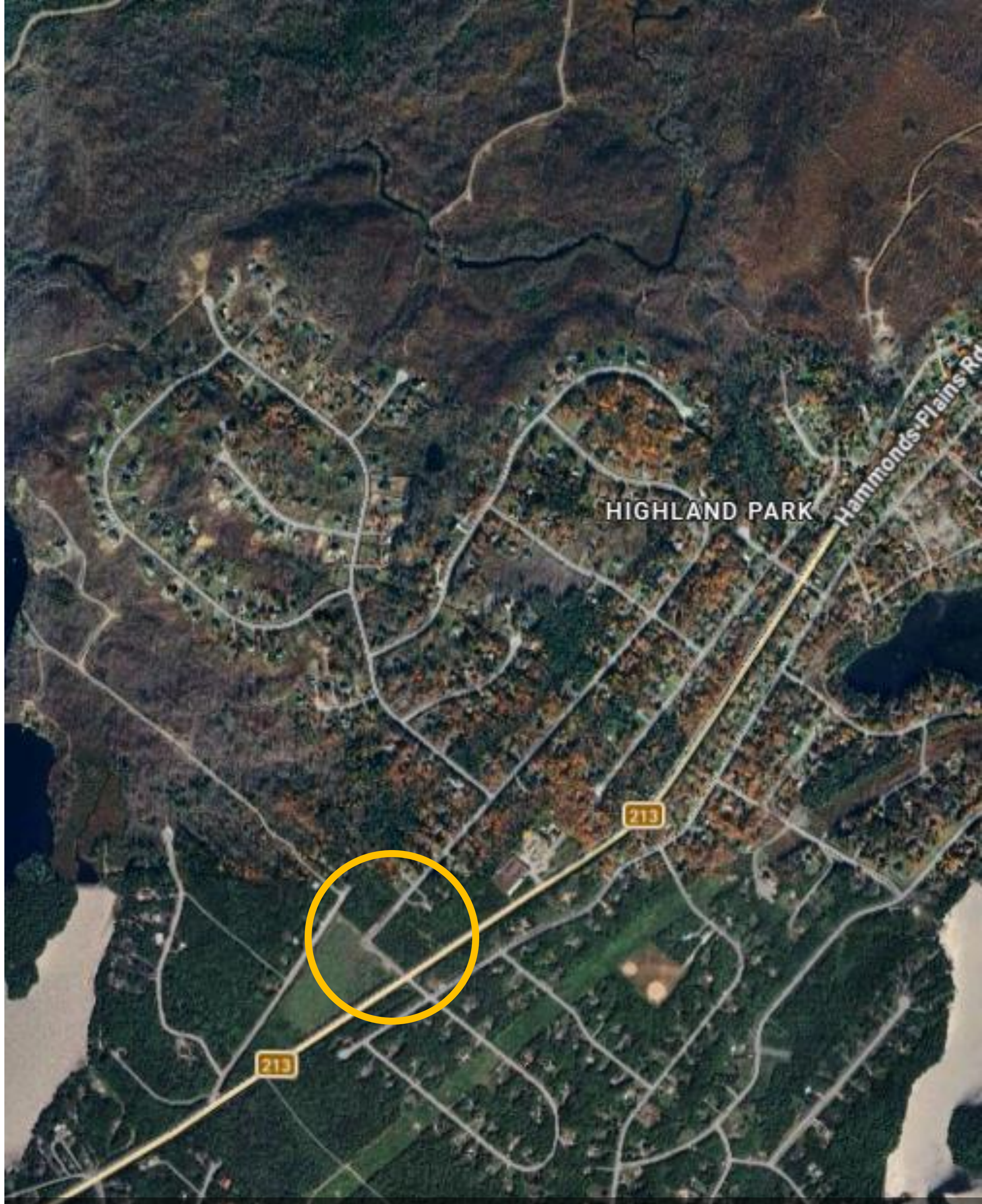


Image: Recent aerial imagery showing new road segment added post fire.

Community Considerations: Response Capacity

- Equipment
  - Wildland fire engines, other vehicles
  - Hand tools, saws, portable pumps
  - Personal protective equipment
  - Mutual aid
- Training and experience
  - Classes, certifications, prescribed fire
- Water supplies
  - Municipal fire hydrants (if available)
  - Water tenders (tankers)
  - Tanks and cisterns
  - Dry hydrants, ponds, etc.

Image: A Maine Forest Ranger monitors a prescribed burn in Brunswick. Dana Ludwig.

Examples of CAG Funded Projects

Installing or Improving Water Supplies for Firefighting:

- Minot - $30,000
- Mariaville - $75,000
- Owl's Head - $44,857
- Rome - $38,280

Community Wildfire Protection Plans:

- Roque Bluffs - $50,000
- Chebeague and Long Islands - $86,000

Image: Team Rubicon and the Maine Forest Service working with residents on Chebeague Island to clear brush. Maine Forest Service.

Community Considerations: Public Health and Ongoing Needs

- Communications and evacuations
  - Plan ahead and build trust with communities
- Air quality
  - Cleaner air centers
- Displaced residents:
  - Evacuation shelters for people and animals
  - Ongoing medical needs/devices
  - Mental health impacts


Image: Wildfire aftermath in central Maine.
Dana Ludwig.

How could climate change affect wildfire risk in Maine?

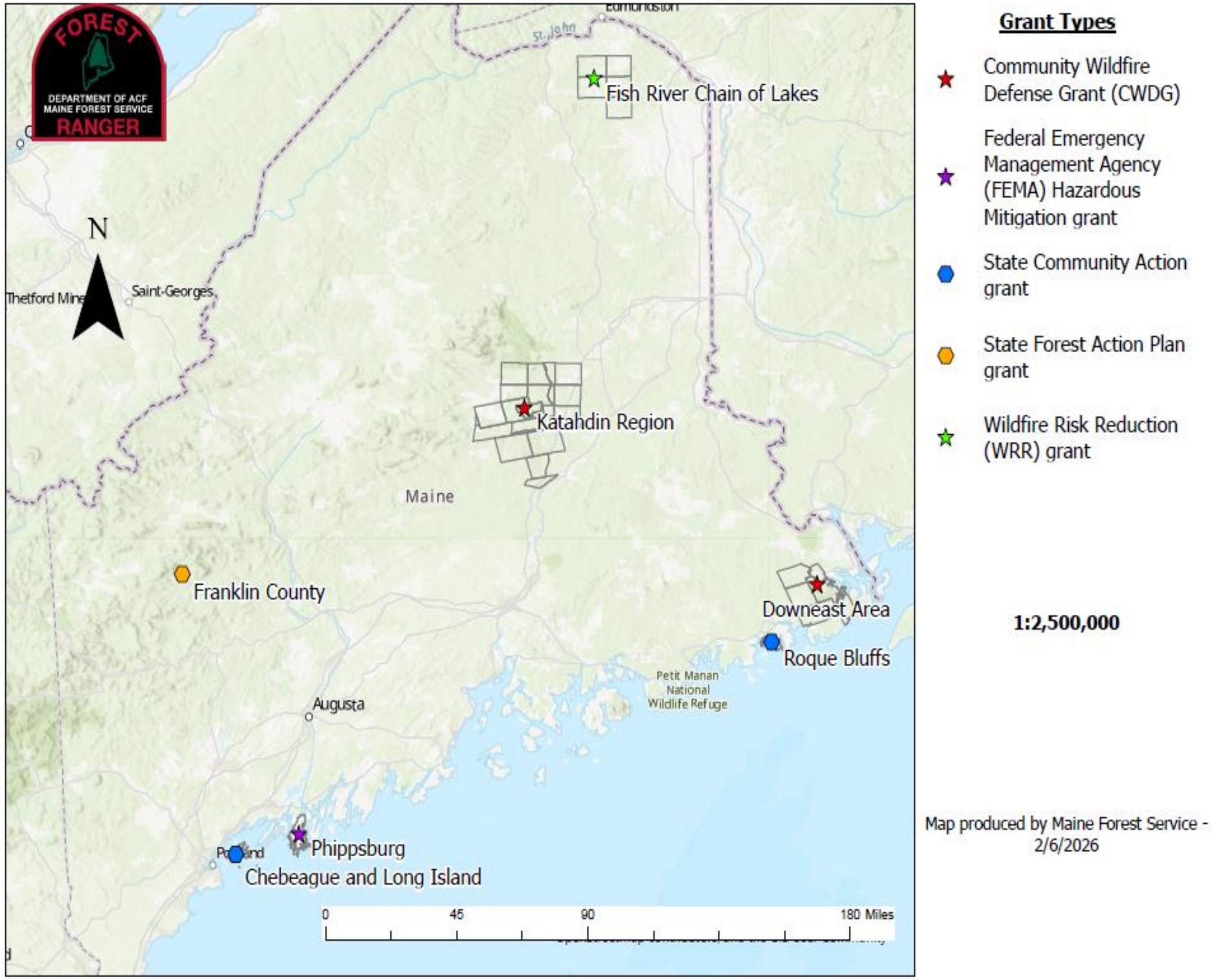
- Higher temperatures
- Flash drought
- Higher winds
- Longer snow-free shoulder seasons
- Changing forest composition?
- More people moving to the state?

- We have a chance to prepare now – let's take it!

Image: Fire in Monmouth in October 2024.
Maine Forest Service.

Current Federal / State funding for CWPP's in Maine

Active Grants for CWPP Development 2026



Funding for CWPP's – Regional Fire Plans

Community Wildfire Defense Grants (CWDG) help communities and Tribes plan for and reduce wildfire risk and implement the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy.

Phippsburg CWPP – funded through FEMA Haz Mit Grant Program

Maine Emergency Management contact for FEMA Haz Mit Grant Program

Christine Whelan

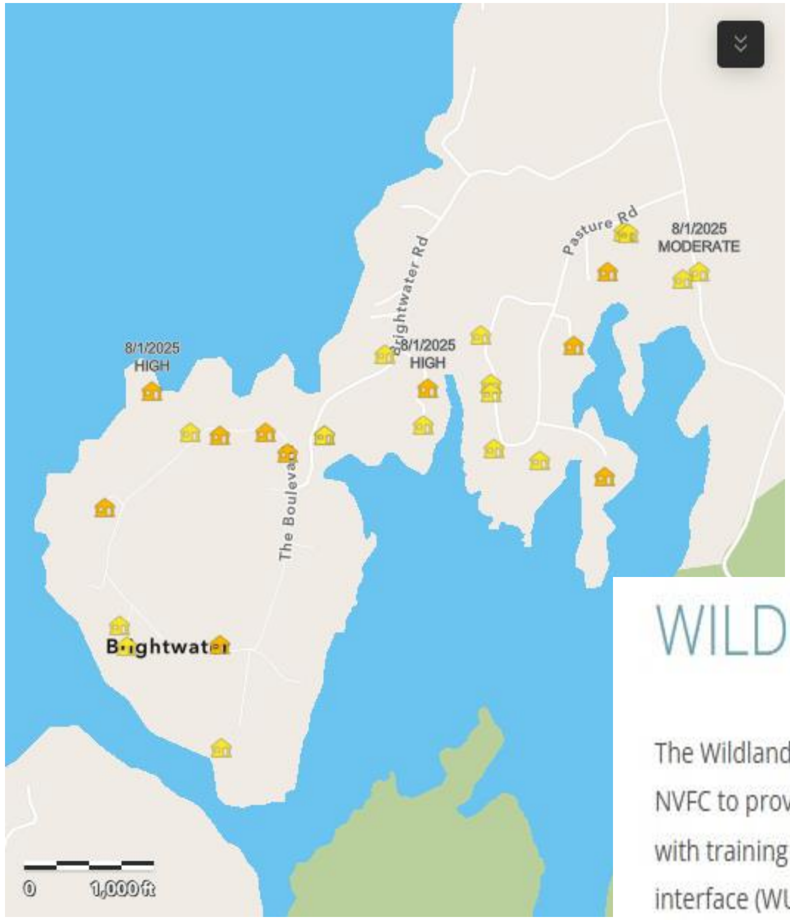
State Hazard Mitigation Officer

Maine Emergency Management Agency

Cell: (207) 707-2963

https://www.maine.gov/mema/

Phippsburg CWPP – Wildfire Risk Assessments



Home Risk Assessment course June 27, 2026
Rangeley Fire and Rescue

FMI, visit the National Volunteer Fire Council website: www.NVFC.org

WILDLAND FIRE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

The Wildland Fire Assessment Program (WFAP) is a joint effort by the U.S. Forest Service and the NVFC to provide volunteer firefighters and non-operational personnel, such as Fire Corps members, with training on how to properly conduct assessments for homes located in the wildland-urban interface (WUI). This is the first program targeted to volunteers that specifically prepares them to evaluate a home and provide residents with recommendations to protect their property from wildfires in order to make their community more fire adapted.

WFAP

How Maine's Forest Rangers can help with CWPP's

- Provide fire occurance data.
- Participate in community meetings to help gain support.
- Work with local FD's to conduct wildfire risk assessments to prioritize wildfire risk.
- Make recommendations for hazardous fuel mitigation.
- Share available funding opportunities.

Maine Forest Service VFC Grant

Maine Volunteer Fire Capacity (VFC) Program

Once approved, provides federal reiumbursement for Volunteer Fire Depts. <10,000 population to:

- Purchase wildland fire PPE and equipment <$5,000.00
- Install new dry hydrants (max reiumbursement $3500.00)
- Unorganized Towns, Homeowner Associations and Plantations withyout FD's are not eligible unless they apply through their contracted FD.

Applications available in mid-September

Forest Ranger Specilast Terri Teller
Terri.teller@maine.gov
207287-4993

My contact info:

Kent Nelson
Forest Ranger Specialist and
CWPP / Fuel Reduction Coordinator

207-287-4989

kent.nelson@maine.gov

Long Island & Chebeague Island Case Studies

Images: Before (left) and after (right) installation of a shaded fuelbreak on Chebeague Island in 2025. Maine Forest Service.

Want to observe a prescribed burn in person?

- The University of Maine will be hosting a Learn & Burn event at the Demeritt Forest in Old Town.
- Exact date will vary based on conditions, but will most likely take place on one day during the week of May 17^{th} through the 23^{rd}.
- You do not need to have any certifications to attend and can watch from a safe distance, but you may be asked to take a survey.
- For more information, contact:

Rose Abramoff

Assistant Professor of Forest Science

Rose.Abramoff@maine.edu

For more information:

To learn more about wildfires from the Maine Forest Service, visit:
https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/

To learn more about the Community Resilience Partnership, visit:
https://www.maine.gov/future/climate/community-resilience-partnership

If you have questions for the presenters, contact:

Dana Ludwig, Senior Climate Planner
Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry
David.Ludwig@maine.gov

Marina Tomer, Resilience Collaborative Program Manager
Community Resilience Partnership, State Resilience Office
Marina.Tomer@maine.gov