The wildland fire program safely and effectively manages wildland fire to enhance and protect life, property, and natural resources for the public benefit within Pennsylvania.

At a glance:

- 16 million acres of forest lands protected
- 10 million acres of Wildland-Urban Interface
- 1,094 Volunteer Forest Fire Wardens
- 350 fire-qualified employees

2019 Wildfire Season

Pennsylvania’s 2019 wildfire season was historically quiet, resulting in the second lowest ever reported number of acres burned in a calendar year.

The largest wildfire reported occurred in April and totaled less than 50 acres in size.

Statistics

- 536 Wildfires
- 688 Acres Burned
- 99% of Wildfires were Human Caused
- 14 Structures Destroyed
- 3 Injuries, 0 Fatalities
- 10-year average: 650 wildfires for 4,000 acres.

Above: Airtanker 865 drops on an urban-interface wildfire that was threatening several structures in Pike County on April 3, 2019.
Above: In conjunction with his 75th birthday celebration, Smokey throws out the first pitch at a Phillies—Pirates game on August 28, 2019.

Wildfire Prevention & Mitigation

- Nationally-recognized Firewise USA™ Communities for 2019 include the following: Big Bass Lake (Dist 11), Hemlock Farms (Dist 19), Penn Forest Streams (Dist 18), and Treasure Lake (Dist 09).

- Over 300 wildfire prevention activities and events were conducted by volunteers and employees.

- Dozens of events were held in 2019 to commemorate Smokey Bear’s 75th Birthday. Smokey appeared at sporting events, special celebrations, and even participated in a special Geocaching event!

2018 Arthur N. Creelman Memorial Award

Congratulations to Ron Minnich of Forest District 17, who received the 2018 Arthur N. Creelman Memorial Award for his work in wildfire prevention. Great Job Ron!
### DCNR Radio

Purchased and began installation of new P25 radio equipment.

### Wildland Fire Crew

Assistance provided to our partners in other states:
- 2 twenty-person crews
- 2 engines
- 20 individuals as single resources
- 74 total personnel.

*Below: Firefighters from Crew PA#3 work the night shift on the South Fire in California, September 2019.*

### Fire Cache

- 60,000 items received
- 73,000 items issued
- 21,000 delivery miles
- Cache supported mobilization of crews, engines, overhead, and training.

### Air Operations

- 7 wildfires supported
- 8,200 gallons dropped
- 19 hours flight time
- 34 hours flown for fire reconnaissance

### Wildland Fire Training & Qualifications

### Federal Excess (FFP/FEPP)

- Almost 1000 items valued at $2.4 million were obtained through the federal excess programs for distribution to local fire departments.

### Volunteer Fire Assistance Grants

for Wildfire Training and Equipment

132 wildfire fighting grants totaling $617,809
Prescribed Fire

- 31 controlled burns covering approximately 850 acres of DCNR lands were completed.

- The largest burn covered 528 acres in the Michaux State Forest with support from our partners.

- Staff also completed several burns at the Milton Hershey School via a cooperative agreement.


Fire Tower Replacement Project

The fire tower replacement project was finished in May of 2019 with the installation of 16 new fire towers.

Thank You!

DCNR would like to thank everyone who assisted the wildland fire program in 2019, especially our valuable network of volunteers. We could not succeed without your dedication and service!

More Information

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of Conservation & Natural Resources
Bureau of Forestry
Division of Forest Fire Protection
400 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA
717-787-2925

www.dcnr.pa.gov/Communities/Wildfire

Only you can prevent wildfires.