

# 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

## WILDLAND FIRE PROGRAM

*Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry—Division of Forest Fire Protection*



### FIRE PROGRAM

At a glance:

- 16 million acres of forest lands protected
- 10 million acres of Wildland-Urban Interface
- 1,154 Volunteer Forest Fire Wardens
- 300 plus fire-qualified DCNR personnel

### MISSION

*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.*



### 2017 Wildfire Season

Pennsylvania's 2017 wild-fire season was relatively short-lived, resulting in below average instances of wildfires and acres burned. This year's 533 wildfires totaled 1,650 acres. PA's 10-year average is 650 wildfires for 4,500 acres.

Higher humidity and widespread regularly occurring precipitation events during the spring helped to reduce wildfire activity.

Only four fires exceeded 100 acres in size, with the largest topping out at 295 acres in Blair County, followed by a 282-acre fire in Schuylkill County.

Lackawanna County and Pike County also had large fires of 136 and 125 acres respectively.

### Statistics

- 533 Wildfires
- 1,650 Acres Burned
- 99% of Wildfires were Human Caused
- 24 Structures Lost
- 5 Injuries, 0 Fatalities



*Owego Fire, Forest District 19.  
-November 2017*

## Qualifications

The process to integrate and adopt standardized wildland fire qualifications was initiated in 2017.

Additionally, DCNR personnel accomplished:

- 189 position task books issued, 78 completed.
- 18 individuals on Eastern Area Priority Trainee list.
- 26 trainee assignments on national incidents.

## Wildland Fire Crew



Dispatched to assisted our federal and state partners:

- 8 twenty-person crews
- 2 engines
- 57 individuals as single resources
- 289 total personnel

States assisted: AZ, CA, CO, GA, FL, ID, MT, NJ, NV, OR, SC, WA, WY



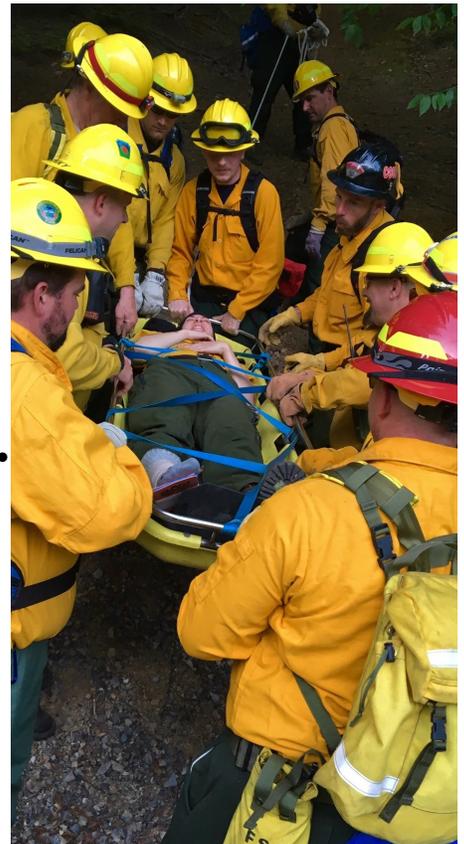
*Pennsylvania Type 6 Engine in Montana. -August 2017*

## All-Hazard Incident Response

During the fall, three Incident Management Teams were mobilized in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) for response and support to hurricanes in FL, NJ, and SC. This was the first time both agencies cooperated on out-of-state response at this scale.

## Wildland Fire Training

- 249 classroom training sessions
- 3,982 students completed classroom courses
- 365 students completed online training courses



*Students participate in an incident-within-an-incident scenario at Wildland Fire Crew Camp. -June 2017*



## DCNR Radio

- Launched newest version of radio maintenance system.
- Standardized Ranger and Fire Vehicle radio installation packages.
- Completed inventory of existing radios.
- Prepared radio replacement plan and budget for P25 system.

## Fire Tower Replacement Project

Construction began on the project to replace 16 aging fire towers in 2017. When work was suspended for the winter of 2017/2018, several old towers had been removed and replacements started at some sites.

Pictured at left is the new Big Pocono Tower on Camelback Mountain in Big Pocono State Park, Monroe County. The new towers are well built, modern structures that should last for many decades. Significant progress is anticipated in the forthcoming year.



## Fire Cache

- 85,000 items received
- 102,000 items issued
- 20,800 delivery miles
- Cache supported mobilization of crews, engines, overhead, and incident management teams.

## Volunteer Fire Assistance & FFP/FEPP

- 129 VFA grants totaling \$560,000 awarded.
- Received 130 items of FFP/FEPP at a value of \$1.1 million.

## Air Operations

- 30 wildfires suppressed
- 51,700 gallons dropped
- 65 hours flight time
- 129 hours fire recon



*Cooperative training conducted with the PA National Guard at Fort Indiantown Gap. -spring 2017*



## Prescribed Fire



In 2017, 40 burns covering approximately 1,200 acres were conducted on DCNR lands.

Pictured at left is a controlled burn conducted on the Michaux State Forest near Big Flat in September 2017.

## Fire Weather

- Three of Pennsylvania's twelve Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS) were relocated to more fire weather representative sites in 2017.
- Process of relocating newly acquired Roaring Creek RAWS to Forest District 20 underway.

## Wildfire Prevention & Mitigation

- Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) completed via contractor at the behest of Allegheny National Forest for Elk and McKean Counties.
- Firewise USA™ Communities for 2017 include the following: Big Bass Lake (Dist 11), Hemlock Farms (Dist 19), and Penn Forest Streams (Dist 18).
- Art Creelman Award presented to Mapleton Fire Department for 2016.
- Over 600 wildfire prevention activities and events were conducted in 2017.

DCNR would like to thank everyone who assisted the wildland fire program in 2017, especially our valuable network of volunteers.

Without your dedication, 2017 would not have been nearly as successful.

Thank you!



## More Information

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

[www.dcnr.pa.gov/Communities/Wildfire](http://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Communities/Wildfire)



**Only you can prevent wildfires.**

 **pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
[www.dcnr.state.pa.us](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us)