

Hello

Tom Trask, Forest Protection Supervisor

My History:

22 years experience as a firefighter

11 years in law enforcement

7 years as a Forest Ranger



2024 Wildfire Season and Collaboration for Effective Protection

The 2024 fall wildfire season was marked by significant challenges, including increased fire activity, substantial property threats, and tragic losses. A statewide wildfire emergency was declared as agencies contended with an unprecedented demand for resources.





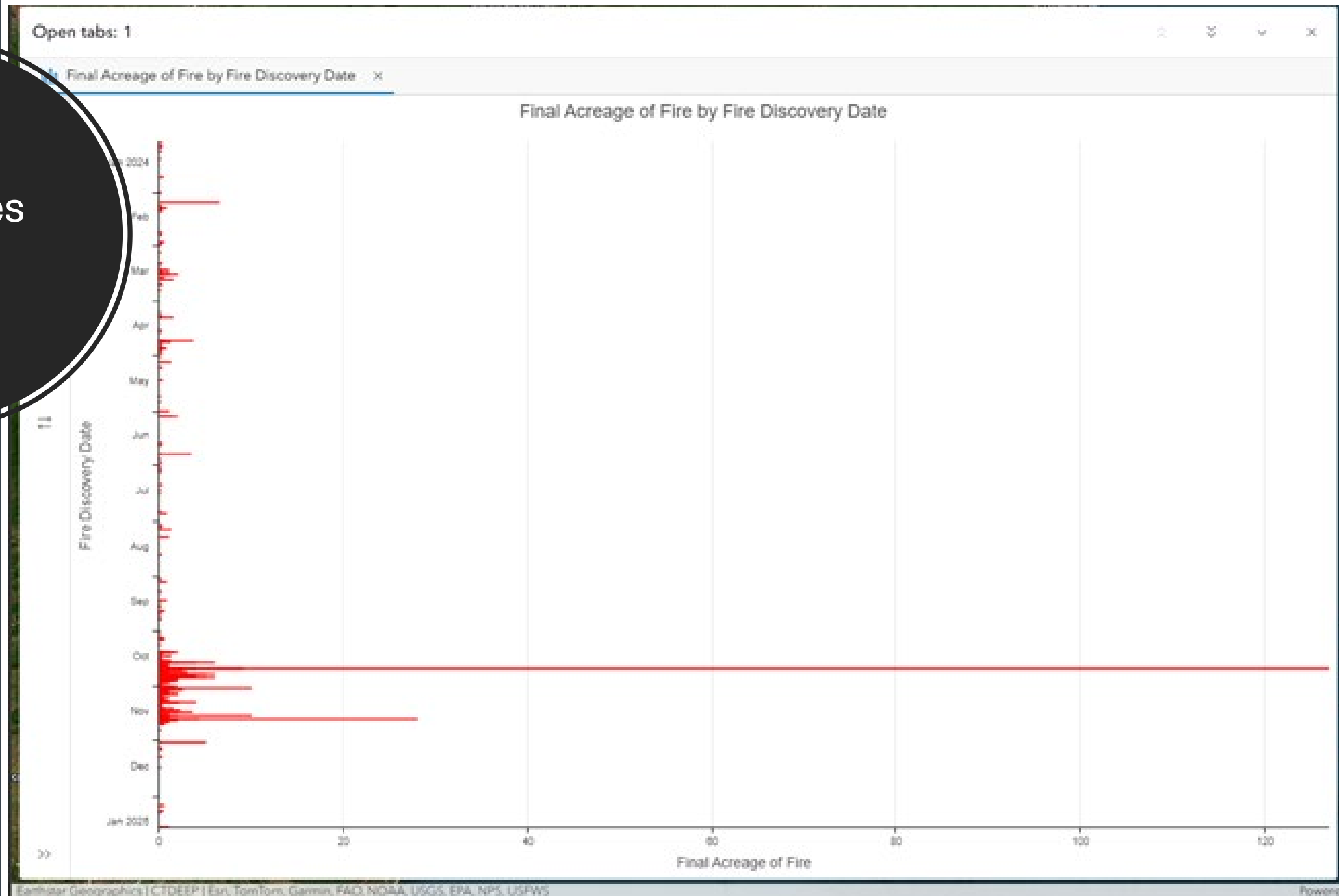
State of Emergency
October 21, 2024

An aerial photograph showing a large fire in a forested area. Thick white smoke is rising from the trees, partially obscuring the background. In the foreground, a two-story red house with a grey roof is visible, surrounded by trees with autumn-colored foliage. A fire truck and other vehicles are parked on a dirt road near the house. The overall scene depicts a significant wildfire event in a residential area.

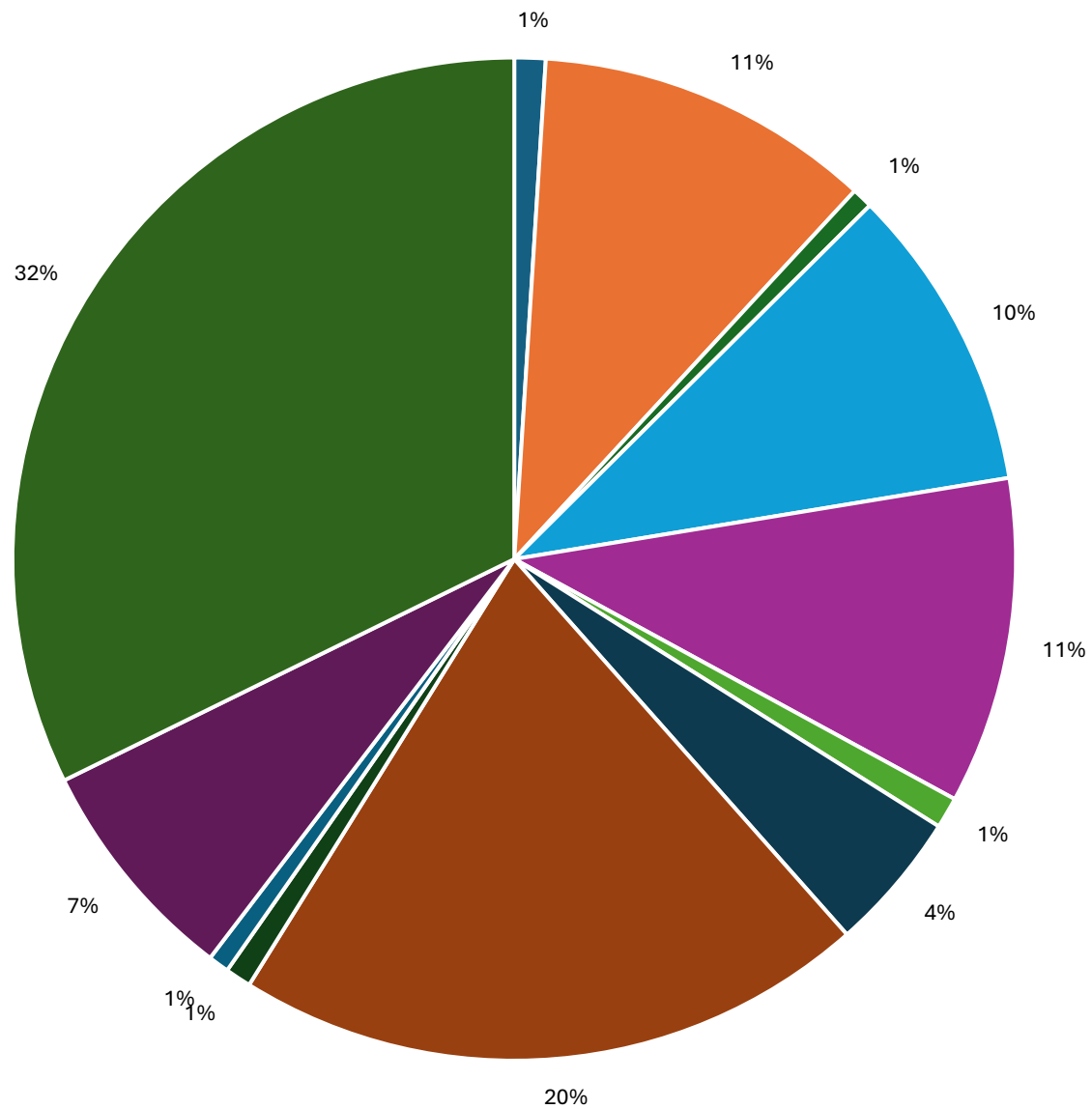
Key Data Highlights

- **Total Fires: 605**
- **Total Acreage Burned: 510 acres**
- **Residences Threatened:**
 - **33 fires involved threatened residences.**
 - **A total of 140 residences were reported in danger, with 50 from the Berlin Fire alone.**
 - **Residences Lost: 1 residence destroyed by fire.**
 - **Other Structures Threatened: 37 fires involved threatened structures.**
 - **A total of 86 other structures were reported in danger, with 25 from the Berlin Fire alone.**
 - **Other Structures Lost: 7 fires resulted in the loss of 8 structures.**
 - **Injuries and Fatalities: 8 firefighter injuries (4 heat exhaustion, 1 back injury, 1 minor injury, 2 unknown).**
 - **1 firefighter fatality.**
 - **1 civilian fatality.**

Total Fires
2024



Count by Cause



■ Arson

■ Campfire

■ Children

■ Debris Burning

■ Equipment

■ Fireworks

■ Smoking

■ Miscellaneous

■ Structure

■ Lighting

■ Powerline

■ Unknown



Conditions Leading to the Emergency

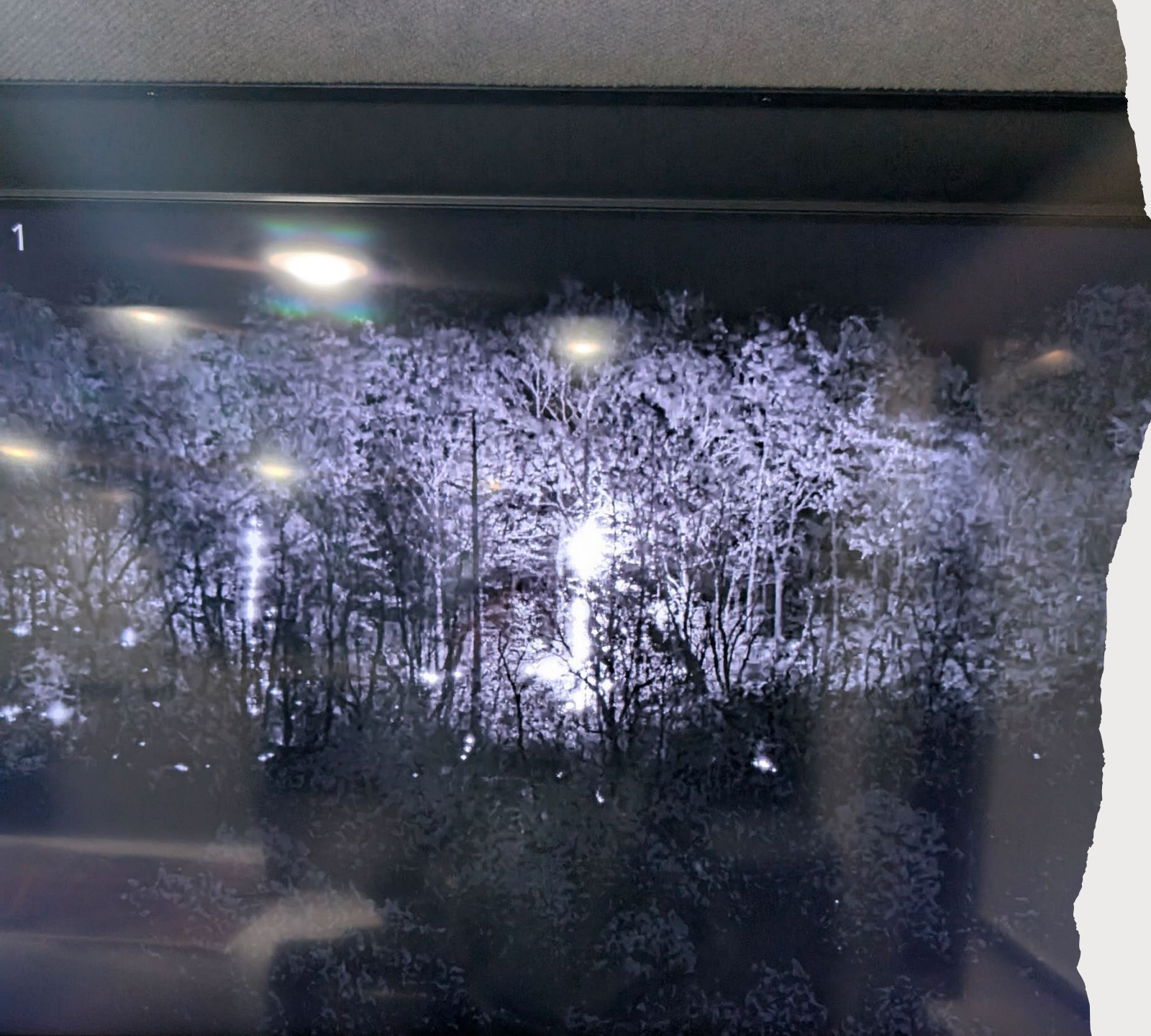
1. Drought Conditions
2. High Winds
3. Fuel Overload
4. Urban Encroachment

Operational Challenges



Initial Report: Brush Fire		PAR LOG - CALL EVERY 10 MINUTES	
Situation Found: BIG FIRE		TIME	RESULT
Incident #: 24-568 Dispatch Time: 17:44			<input type="checkbox"/> All present and accounted for.
Address: Quincy Tel			<input type="checkbox"/> Deploy F.A.S.T. / R.I.T.
Occupancy Type: Woods			<input type="checkbox"/> All present and accounted for.
Construction Type: TRUSS? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/> Deploy F.A.S.T. / R.I.T.
Sprinklered? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Activated? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/> All present and accounted for.
Special Hazards:			<input type="checkbox"/> Deploy F.A.S.T. / R.I.T.
UNDER CONTROL AT:			<input type="checkbox"/> All present and accounted for.
ACTION PLAN:	<input type="checkbox"/> AGGRESSIVE INTERIOR ATTACK		<input type="checkbox"/> Deploy F.A.S.T. / R.I.T.
	<input type="checkbox"/> MODIFIED EXTERIOR ATTACK		<input type="checkbox"/> All present and accounted for.
	<input type="checkbox"/> DEFENSIVE EXTERIOR ATTACK		<input type="checkbox"/> Deploy F.A.S.T. / R.I.T.
STRATEGY:			<input type="checkbox"/> All present and accounted for.
REVISED STRATEGY:			<input type="checkbox"/> Deploy F.A.S.T. / R.I.T.
LIFE SAFETY:		UTILITIES SECURED <input type="checkbox"/>	
VICTIMS REPORTED? NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/>	PRIMARY SEARCH: <input type="checkbox"/> STARTED <input type="checkbox"/> COMPLETED	SECONDARY SEARCH: <input type="checkbox"/> STARTED <input type="checkbox"/> COMPLETED	OUTSIDE AGENCIES ON SCENE:
LOCATION:	RESULTS:	RESULTS:	

- Intense demands on personnel and equipment due to prolonged fire durations.
- Difficulties coordinating across multiple jurisdictions during high-impact incidents.
- Limited access to critical aerial firefighting resources during peak periods.



Nighttime
operations with
difficult
communications

Where do we go from here?



MISSION READY



KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN PROTECTION EFFORTS

- Government agencies: Law enforcement, fire services, emergency management
- Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)
- Private sector partners (technology, infrastructure, logistics)
- Community involvement and its impact

An aerial photograph showing a dense forest of trees with autumn foliage in shades of orange, yellow, and brown. A residential development with several houses and a winding road is visible in the middle ground. In the background, a large body of water (a lake or reservoir) is surrounded by more forested hills under a cloudy sky. The image is partially obscured by a grey, semi-transparent overlay on the right side, which contains the title and list.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Strengthen inter-agency coordination
- Enhance response times and efficiency
- Improve resource sharing and communication
- Foster community engagement in protection efforts

Communication Protocols

- Establish clear communication channels
- Use of standardized radio frequencies and digital communication tools
- Real-time data sharing and situational awareness tools



Communication

- Unified Messaging
- Public Engagement
- Incident Briefings



JOINT TRAINING EXERCISES

- Importance of cross-agency drills and simulations
- Case study: Multi-agency wildfire response training
- Benefits of frequent, hands-on training sessions



TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION IN PROTECTION EFFORTS

- GIS mapping for incident tracking
- Use of drones and AI-driven analytics
- Digital dashboards for real-time resource allocation

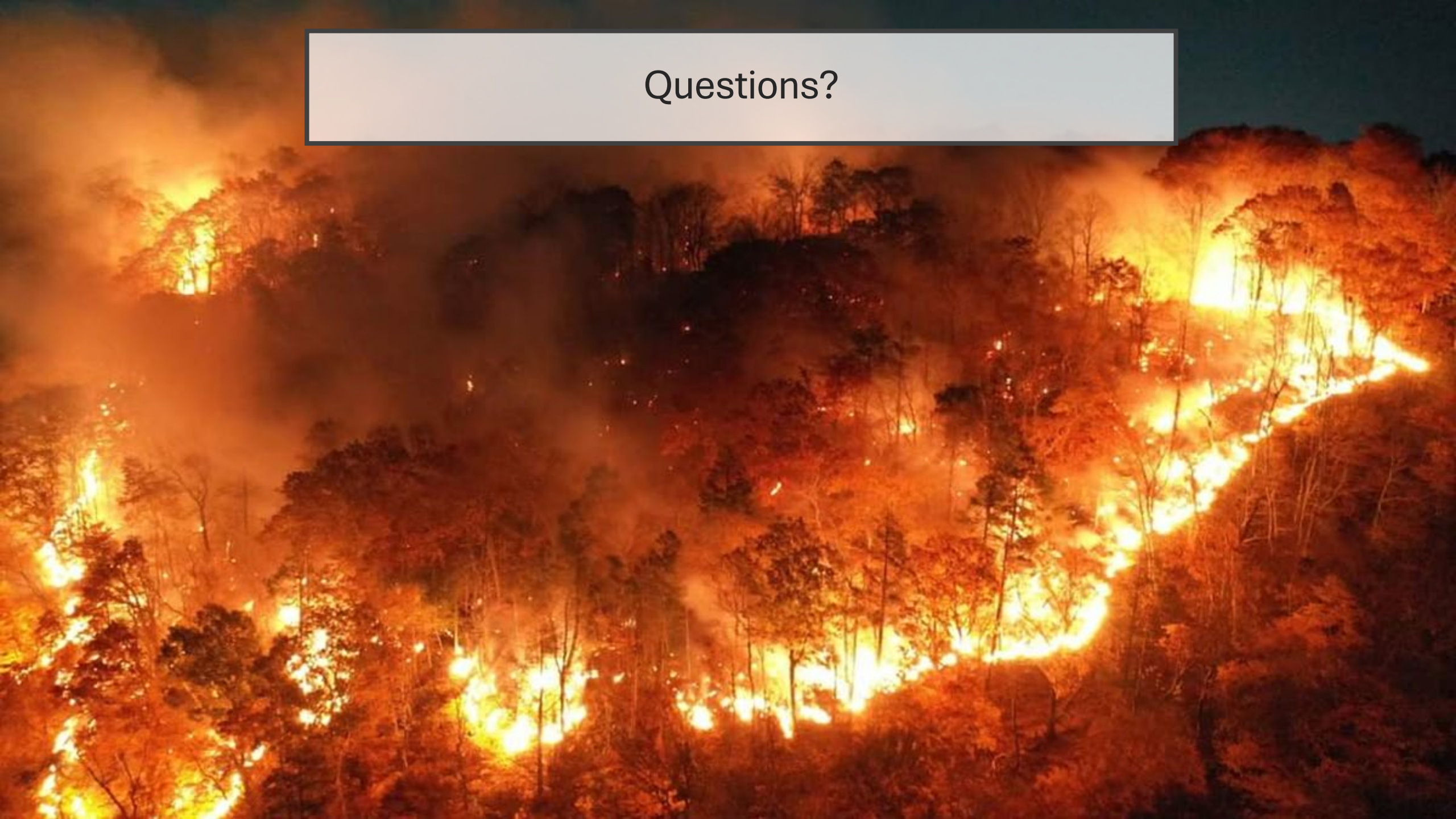


Recommendations for Improvement

- Successful wildfire response coordination
 - Keep fires small
- Lessons learned from past incidents
 - Develop an IC Training Pipeline
 - Strengthen Pre-Incident Planning
- Future improvements in wildfire management
 - Invest in Infrastructure
 - Expand Partnerships and Succession Planning
 - How to keep moving forward?



Questions?



Thank you

