

Hawthorne Drive Fire Incident Update

Sunday, November 3, 2024

Fire Information: 860-348-3198. 8 a.m. to 8p.m.

Email: HawthorneDriveFire@gmail.com



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Hawthorne Drive Fire: 127 Acres

Total Personnel: 118

Fire Line Secured: 50%

History: The Hawthorne Drive Fire started on October 21, 2024, when local residents reported the blaze on the west side of Lamentation Mountain. Initial resources from the Town of Berlin Fire Department and the Connecticut State Department of Energy and Environmental Protection ([DEEP](#)) responded promptly. Additional support came from the fire departments of Newington, Wethersfield, Rocky Hill, Cromwell, Westfield, and Meriden, who assisted with the initial attack. On October 22, 2024, the Connecticut Incident Management Teams and the Connecticut State Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security mobilized to assist with management of the incident. On October 23, 2024, the Connecticut Army National Guard began providing air support for fire suppression efforts. Additionally, on October 29, 2024, the FDNY Incident Management Team began managing resources for the Hawthorne Drive Fire.

Fire Activity: Crews will continue efforts to improve patrols and extinguish hot spots in and around the fire lines. Backhauling of excess fire equipment will continue today along the west side of the fire, where the fire lines have been secured. As leaf litter accumulates, it adds new fuel each day. The teams will assess and remove any trees in the fire area that pose a hazard to firefighters. Additionally, crews will work inward from the perimeter fire lines to identify and eliminate the potential for future spot fires. Fire activity remains minimal, with only smoldering and creeping fires reported due to the leaf litter and heavy fallen logs.

Weather: Sunny and dry weather will persist today. Light winds from the north to northeast at 5-7 mph will bring a drier air mass to the region, lowering the relative humidity (RH) to 29% by the afternoon as temperatures reach the mid-50s. Due to an overnight temperature inversion, limited smoke lofting is expected early in the morning; however, this should improve as the mixed layer deepens by mid-morning. On Monday, light southerly winds are anticipated, with speeds around 5-10 mph. In contrast, stronger southwest winds are forecasted for Tuesday and Wednesday, potentially gusting up to 25 mph. This will also be accompanied by temperatures well above normal.

Restrictions: The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) has imposed a statewide burn ban on all public lands it administers, including State Parks, Forests, and Wildlife Management Areas. This decision follows Governor Lamont's civil preparedness emergency declaration made on October 25, 2024. The declaration notes that there is no rain forecasted in Connecticut for at least the next 7 to 10 days. Over the past week, the National Weather Service has issued several advisories regarding fire conditions in the state, most notably a Red Flag Warning, which indicates that critical fire weather conditions are either expected or currently occurring.

Closures: Lamentation Mountain State Park, Berlin is closed due to fire.

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