





# Utah is using Fire Sense and cuts human caused fires in half since 2020 from 946 to 489

## Director/State Forester



Another fire year is behind us, and just like previous years, 2022 had its own set of challenges that we had to face and overcome. Our team did a fabulous job protecting the landscapes of the state of Utah. Unfortunately, the drought affecting Utah continues, and made conditions just right for wildfires. The summer

looked like it was going to be a busy one, with three large fires starting within just a few days of each other in early July. However, mother nature brought a much-needed monsoonal weather pattern which helped keep fire activity down.

Not only did the moisture reduce fire activity, but so did the citizens of Utah. Through our Fire Sense campaign, we continued to see a reduction in human-caused wildfires across the state. This year we again experienced an 18% reduction in human-caused wildfires, equating to a 60% reduction over the last two years. Nice work, Utah!

This year we also added two Type 1 helicopters to our firefighting toolbox, providing much-needed aerial assistance. These aircraft helped improve our success rate to 94 percent, meaning only 51 fires exceeded 10 acres this year. In addition, these two aircraft flew 216.8 hours in fire suppression this year and dropped 771,400 gallons of water.

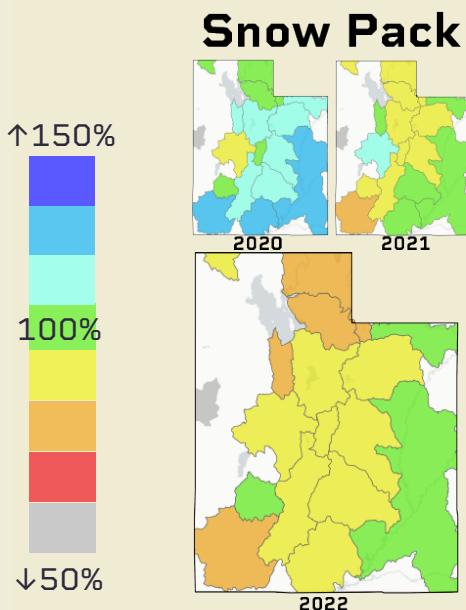
Our success couldn't have been achieved without the help of our cooperators throughout the state. Our federal, state and local partners are instrumental in the initial attack phase, and our success wouldn't be possible without their support and coordination. These men and women play a critical role in our wildfire efforts across the Western United States.

While there is success to celebrate this year, we must be proactive and stay focused. Other states in our region didn't fare as well as we did this year. We must remain vigilant.

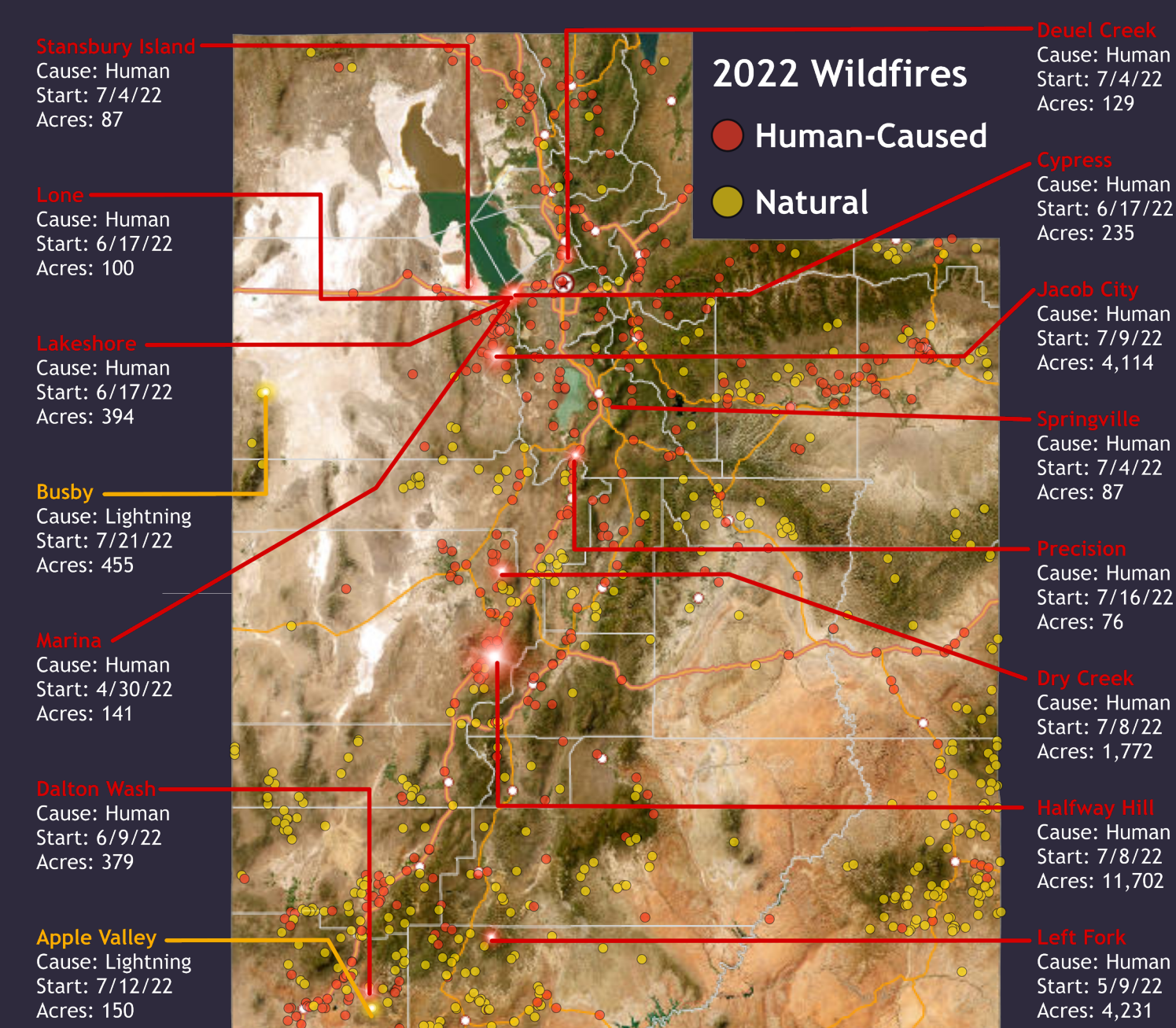
JAMIE BARNES  
Director/State Forester

## Weather Summary

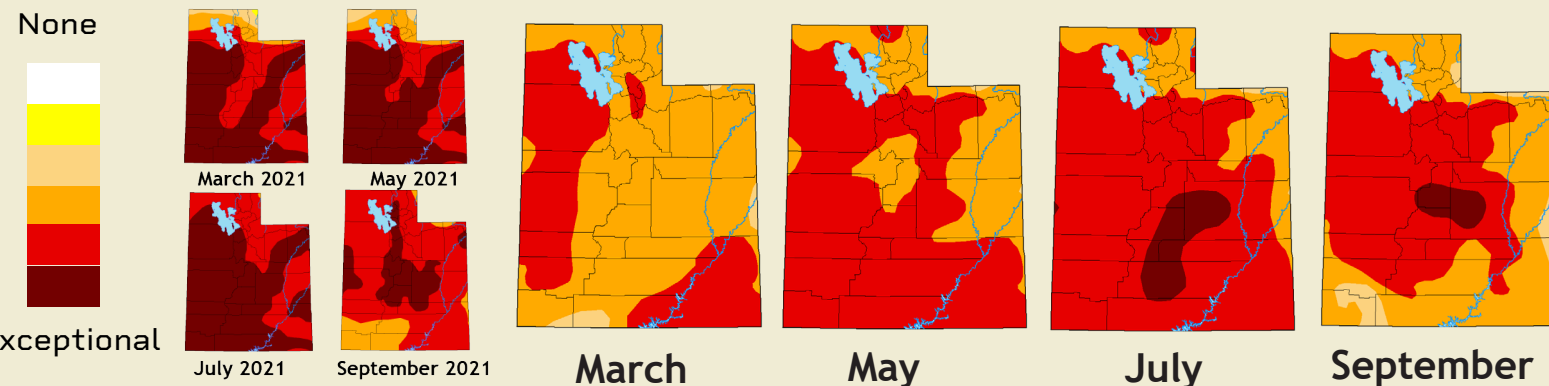
The 2022 fire season was preceded by an extremely dry spring and winter set high potential for an early and severe fire season in Utah. Fire season began in late May, two weeks earlier than normal in southern Utah with initial attack increasing but "Large Fires" were limited due to sparse fine fuels. In early June, lightning events and dry breezy conditions increased large fire activity in the southern area. In Mid-June, an extremely early monsoon season began 2-3 weeks earlier than normal. It was a long and wet season with southern areas receiving 120%-200% of normal rain. In Mid-July a widespread lightning event occurred, with new large fires in western Utah. A fairly warm and dry late summer and early fall kept existing large fire active into early October. From early August onwards, fire activity never reached July levels.



## TOP 15 Largest Wildfires in 2022



## DROUGHT



## 2022 Fire Season

### SUMMARY

Total Wildfire Reports  
**963**

Total Acres Burned  
**25,551**

Total Human-Caused  
Acres  
**24,447**

Human-Caused Starts  
**489**

**51** fires larger than **10**  
acres for **94%**  
**CATCH RATE**

**457** fewer human caused  
fires **2020 vs 2022**



**49%** of fires were  
human caused

## Top Three Human-Caused Starts



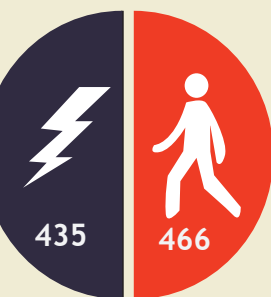
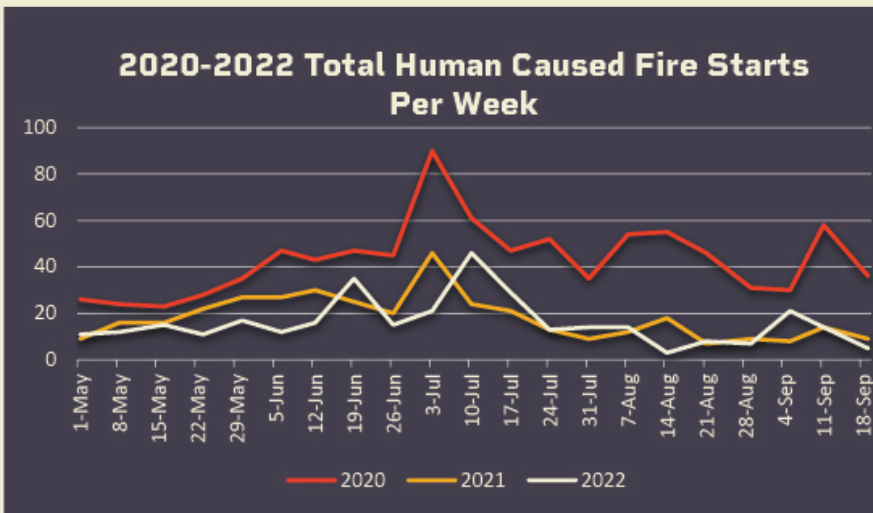
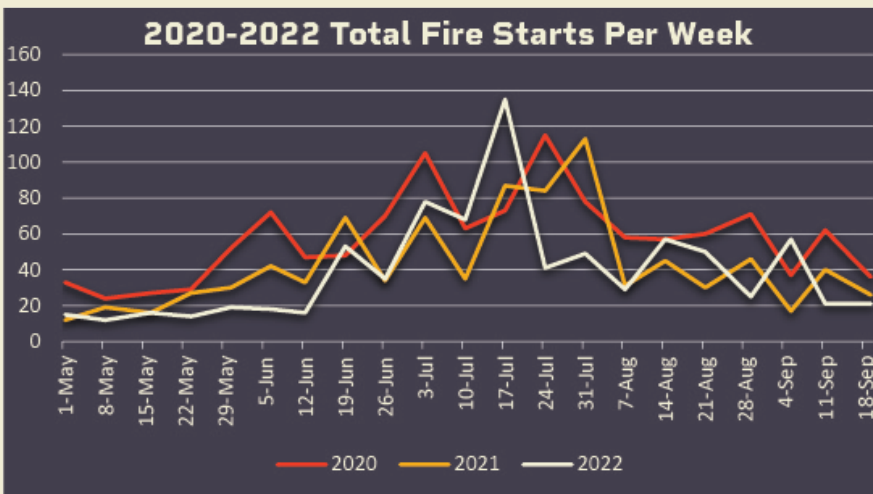
#1 Motor



#2 Debris/Open  
Burn



#3 Campfires



**963**

Total Wildfires reported  
62 fires caused were  
undetermined



24,447 acres burned  
were human

**25,551**

Acres Burned  
Only 1,104 acres burned were  
natural caused.