

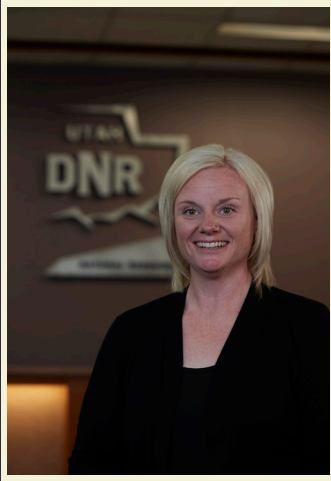
Utah Wildfire Annual Report



2023

'Utahns were vigilant': How

Director/State Forester



As the 2023 fire year nears its end, we can celebrate our successes from this past year while addressing the challenges facing our state and staff. This year, Mother Nature aided in protecting Utah's beautiful landscapes. After years of drought conditions that stretched our resources in the past, we saw the peak of the 2023 fire season later than usual.

Fire activity remained low this year due to our record-setting winter snowpack and late summer monsoonal weather pattern.

When called upon this year, our staff successfully caught fires and kept 96 percent of them at 10 acres or less. Success would not be possible without the help of our local cooperators and interagency partners throughout the state.

These men and women play an important role in assisting the state during all phases of fire, and the partnerships are instrumental in managing wildfires across the state.

Another big thanks this year to Utahns for practicing their Fire Sense. Due to their efforts, human-caused wildfire starts were down for the third year. Three years ago, the state started the

Fire Sense campaign to decrease the number of fires caused by human behavior. Now, in 2023, we continue to see this program's benefits. The program's success has not gone unnoticed and was honored nationally with the bronze-level Smokey Bear Award in September.

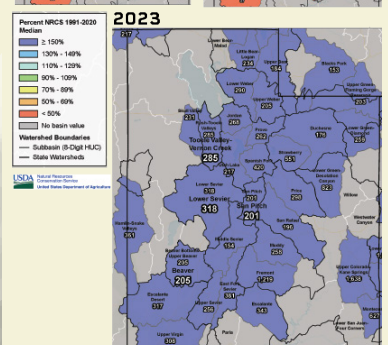
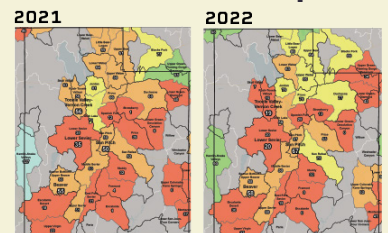
While we always celebrate successes, 2023 has many notable ones, we always look ahead to the future and where our focus and priorities need to be. Our staff is committed to addressing wildfire threats in our communities through prevention, preparedness, and mitigation which play a key role in combating the wildfire crisis. We realize the true costs of wildfire and how that plays a role in every Utahn's life. We also value the partnerships we share with our interagency partners, and we will continue to build those relationships and support each other where we can.

Here in Utah, we will continue to lead out in all we do. We will work to ensure resilient landscapes and that our communities are adapted to wildfire. We are committed to safe, effective, and efficient response to wildfires and continued messaging to understand the risk and importance of wildfire prevention. It is our continued mission to protect Utah from the devastation of catastrophic wildfires.

Weather Summary

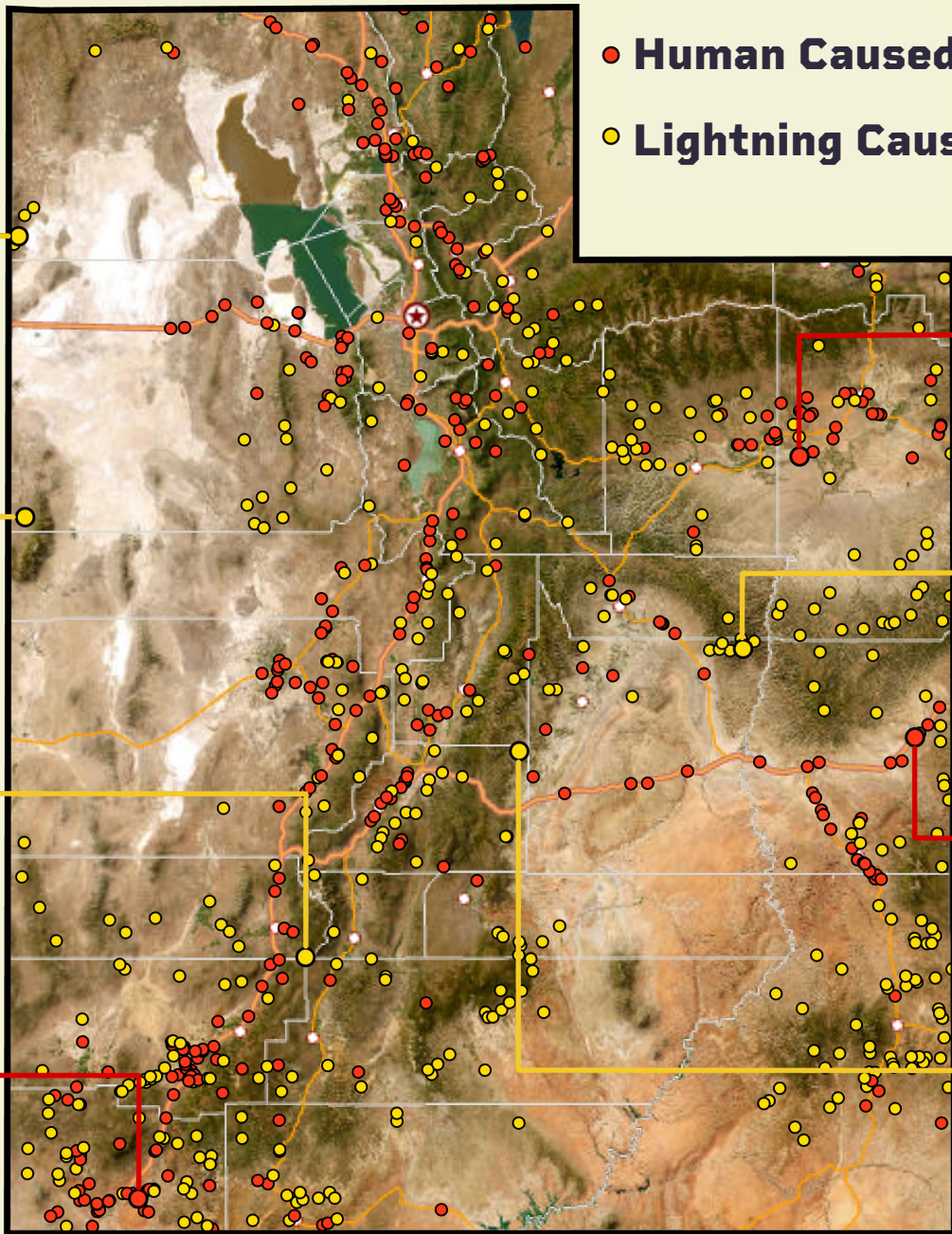
The 2023 fire season in Utah started slowly due to record snowpack and above-average fuel moisture levels. The grass was green, causing a slow start to the fire season. El Nino enhanced cool and moist conditions statewide from May through early July. A few hot and dry days increased fire activity slightly in late July and early August, but it was still well below normal levels. Monsoonal moisture surges took the edge off fire activity in most areas into mid-August. Heavy rains followed in September, effectively ending the threat of significant fire potential. The year was one of the least active fire seasons in the past decade.

Percent of Snowpack



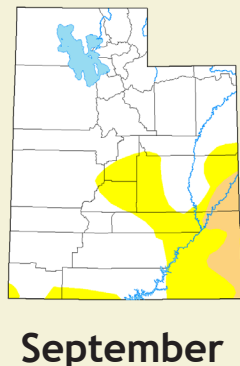
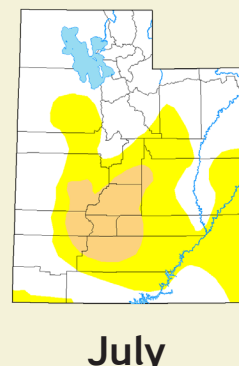
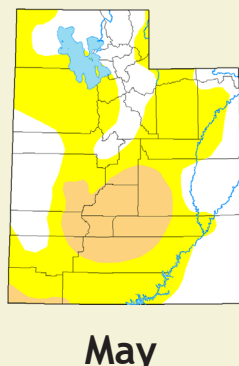
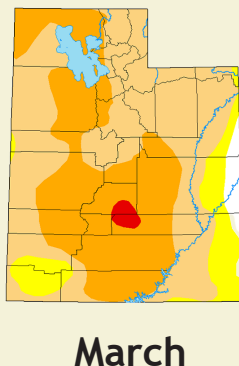
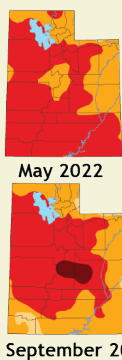
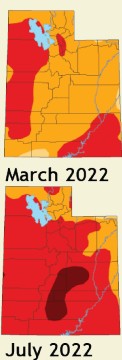
Utah's 2023 wildfire season beco

Top Eight Largest Wildfires in 2023



DROUGHT

None



Exceptional

came a smashing success



2023 Fire Season SUMMARY

(11/13/23 data pulled)

Total Wildfire Reports

808

Total Acres Burned

18,061

Total Human-Caused Acres

3,277

Human-Caused Starts

339



2023 Bronze Smokey Bear Award

42% of fires were human-caused

150 fewer human-caused fires **2022 vs 2023**

30 fires larger than **10** acres for **96% CATCH RATE**

Top Three Human-Caused Starts



#1

69 Motor Vehicles Starts



#2

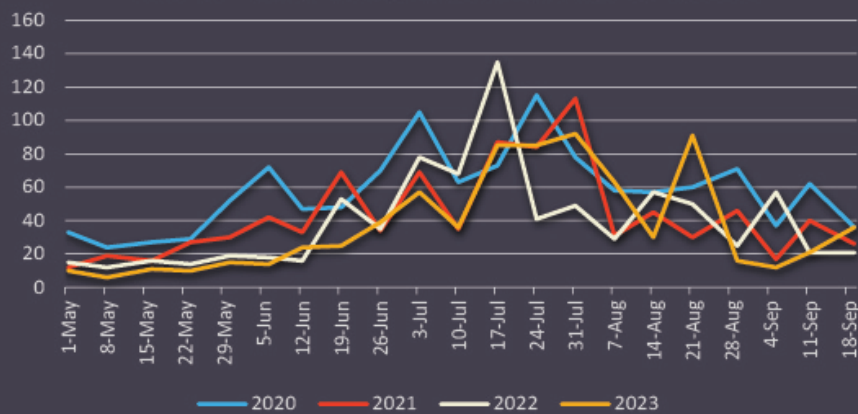
48 Debris/Open Burn Starts



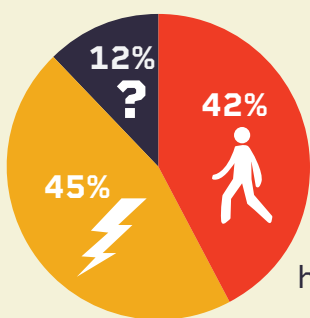
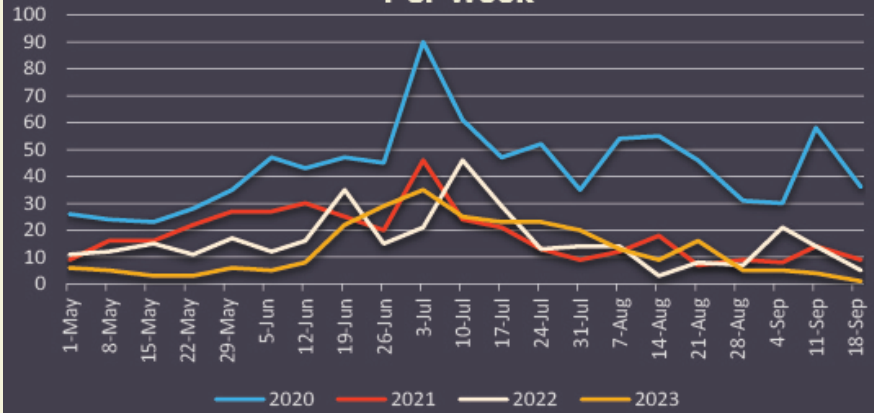
#3

28 Campfires Starts

2020-2023 Total Fire Starts Per Week

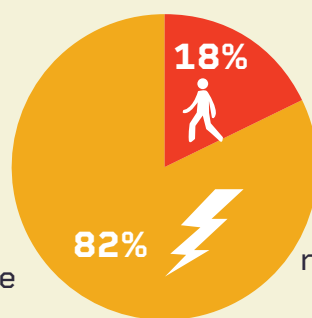


2020-2023 Total Human Caused Fire Starts Per Week



808

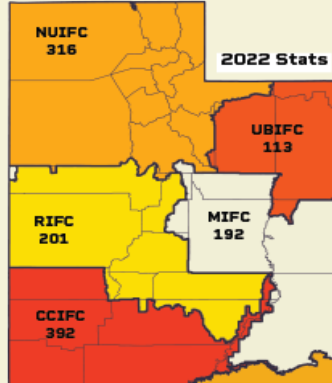
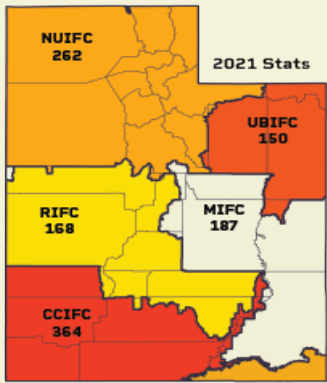
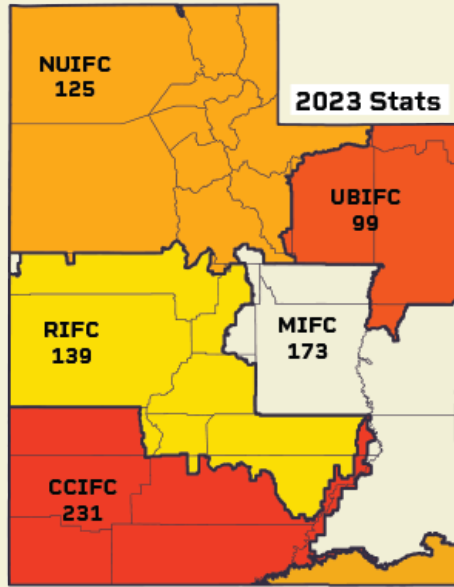
Total Wildfires reported
367 fires caused were natural cause, 339 were human caused and 102 are undetermined.



18,061

Acres Burned
14,695 acres burned were natural caused, only 3,277 acres were human caused.

Fires by Dispatch



The Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) is described as the populated areas that border our forests and rangelands. As communities expand into these wildfire-prone landscapes, fire suppression efforts become dangerous, complex, and expensive. Utah has 668 Communities at Risk located in, or near, the WUI. FFSL employees engage with communities at risk, building relationships, educating, and supporting them to become better fire adapted against future wildfire threats. Each approach varies and is specific to suit the area that we are assisting. The information below showcases our efforts over the last year to lay the groundwork for what must be done before wildfires come to these areas of our state. This proactive approach is a passion of all FFSL employees and has been proven to save homes and lives.



The #SunnyCove fire was a lightning caused fire that grew quickly forcing evacuations.

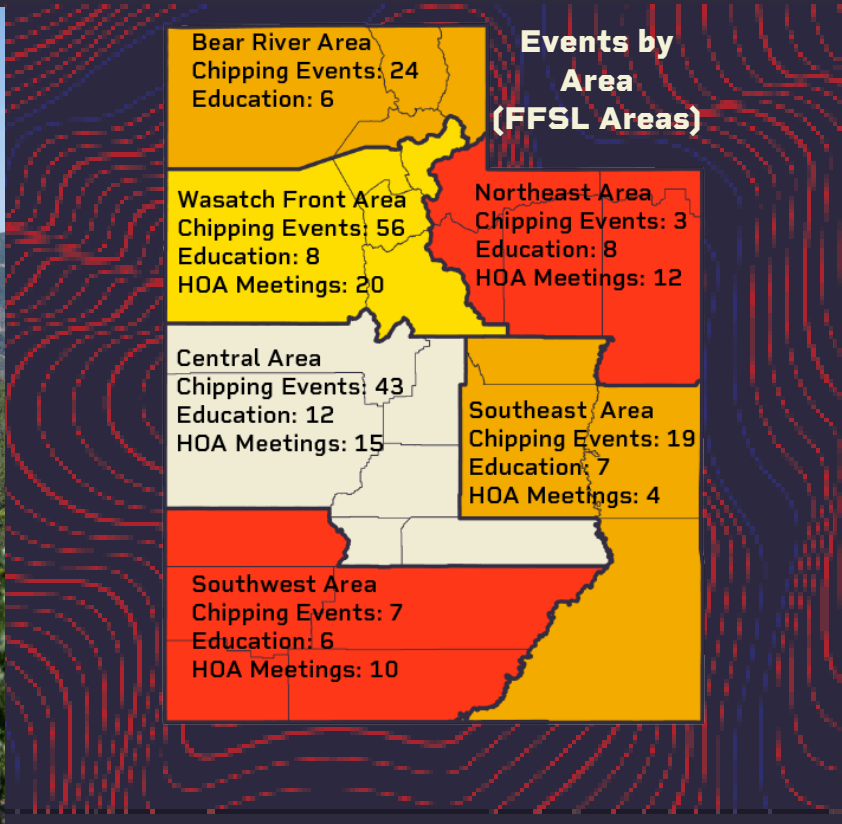
WUI Engagement Actions

47
Education Events

165
Active CWPP's
Community Wildfire
Preparednes Plan

61
HOA Meetings
Employees engage interested
communities

152
Chipping Events
Home Owners Dispose of slash
piles around homes



250.2 hours
Helicopters flew for fire suppression



Two Type 1 Helicopters for Wildfire Suppression in the State of Utah

This was year two of a five-year helicopter contract between Croman Helicopters and the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands (FFSL). Two Type 1 Sikorsky S61 helicopters were again on contract, with one starting the season in Cedar City June 1st, and the other starting July 1st in Spanish Fork. Both contracts were for 90 days, with options to extend when mutually agreed upon.

Type 1 helicopters were chosen to complement the aircraft that our federal partners are contracting. These helicopters are managed by FFSL with full operational control, and not dispatched outside of Utah without FFSL approval.

699,644 gallons
of water dropped for fire suppression by both state helicopters

Interagency Wildfire Response

Most of Utah has a Federal, State, and/or local wildfire suppression resource assigned to it. Regardless of agency affiliation, when a fire is reported, the closest firefighting resource will respond and take appropriate action. After safety and area objectives have been provided for, all fires are fought aggressively. When resources are spread thin responding to fires, other firefighting personnel from around the country will respond and assist with suppression needs when necessary.

96%
Initial Attack Rate
Only 30 fires
exceeded 10 acres

4,333
Red Carded
Firefighters Certified
and active wildland



140,000
hours assigned to an incident
380,000
Total Miles Driven
82,000
hazard hours worked
26,000
hours worked on state fuels
reduction projects
6,044
chainsaw tanks ran

Lone Peak Conservation Center

The Lone Peak Conservation Center (LPCC) is a State of Utah Wildfire Management Program. Located in Draper, Utah, the LPCC consists of several wildfire suppression resources: Two Hotshot crews, two Initial Attack hand crews, and two Heavy Engines. This year, the Thunder Mountain fuels crew was added. This crew primarily works on fuel reduction projects throughout the state, weather permitting. Thunder Mountain plans to expand from 10 to 20 crew members. LPCC resources are available for fire suppression, hazardous fuels reduction projects, and natural resource projects locally and nationally from April through November.

