

Utah Wildfire Annual Report



2024

The 2024 fire season was Utah's

Director/State Forester



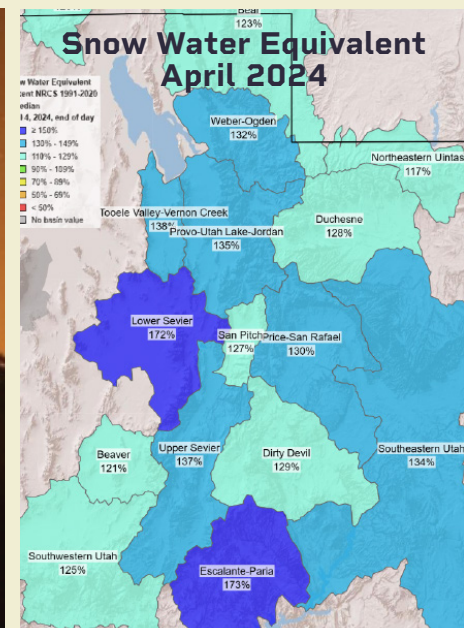
As we close out the 2024 fire season, it's a time of reflection on what was, the lessons learned, and how we progress and improve for the coming year. With several large fires at the doorsteps of our communities, this year was a good reminder of the value of prevention, preparedness and mitigation. We were also reminded of the importance of partnerships and how crucial they are, not just in times of need but in completing our everyday work in the most productive and efficient manner. Communication and safety also played important roles throughout the season. Keeping our people safe during incidents and while traveling throughout the states was a top priority. Many of our crews spent an increased amount of time on assignments in neighboring states as we saw an increased amount of fire activity throughout the West.

This year showed the importance of using our Fire Sense as we saw increased human-caused fires early in the season. We ended the season with just 55% of all wildfires being human-caused. We cannot become complacent in our fight against human-caused wildfires, and we must continue to use our Fire Sense and remind those around us of the importance of fire prevention.

Our team worked tirelessly this year to keep Utah safe, giving it their all every day throughout the season. We continued the trend of catching 93% of all wildfires at 10 acres or less. That truly is an accomplishment that demonstrates the Utah Way! In Utah, we will continue to stand out as we lead the way in fighting the wildfire crisis that impacts our communities, watersheds, and landscapes. We will continue strengthening our partnerships and building new ones to help us better serve Utah. Being a part of this team truly means making a difference.

Weather Summary 2024

The wet winters of 2022-23 and 2023-24 in northern Utah resulted in an above-average grass crop and significant carry-over fuels statewide. Early in the fire season, northern areas had non-critical fuel conditions, but unseasonably dry weather from late June to late July, after a delayed monsoon, that created critical conditions in the south and sparked several large fires. By late July, hot, dry conditions spread to northern Utah, leading to numerous fires statewide. The monsoon arrived in early August, briefly reducing fire activity, but hot and dry weather returned from September to mid-October, along with strong winds, causing a spike in fires. An unusual number of large fires occurred across the state until the final week of October, when autumn storms brought widespread rain and mountain snow, effectively ending the 2024 fire season.



busiest in years, acreage burned is ab

Top 12 Largest Wildfires in 2024

Feed Lot
835 acres

Dry Fork
1,341 acres

HAG/GAT
3,610 acres

Boulter
2,242 acres

Cherry Creek
Road
718 acres

Third Canyon
731 acres

Little Twist
5,367 acres

Human Caused
Lightning Caused

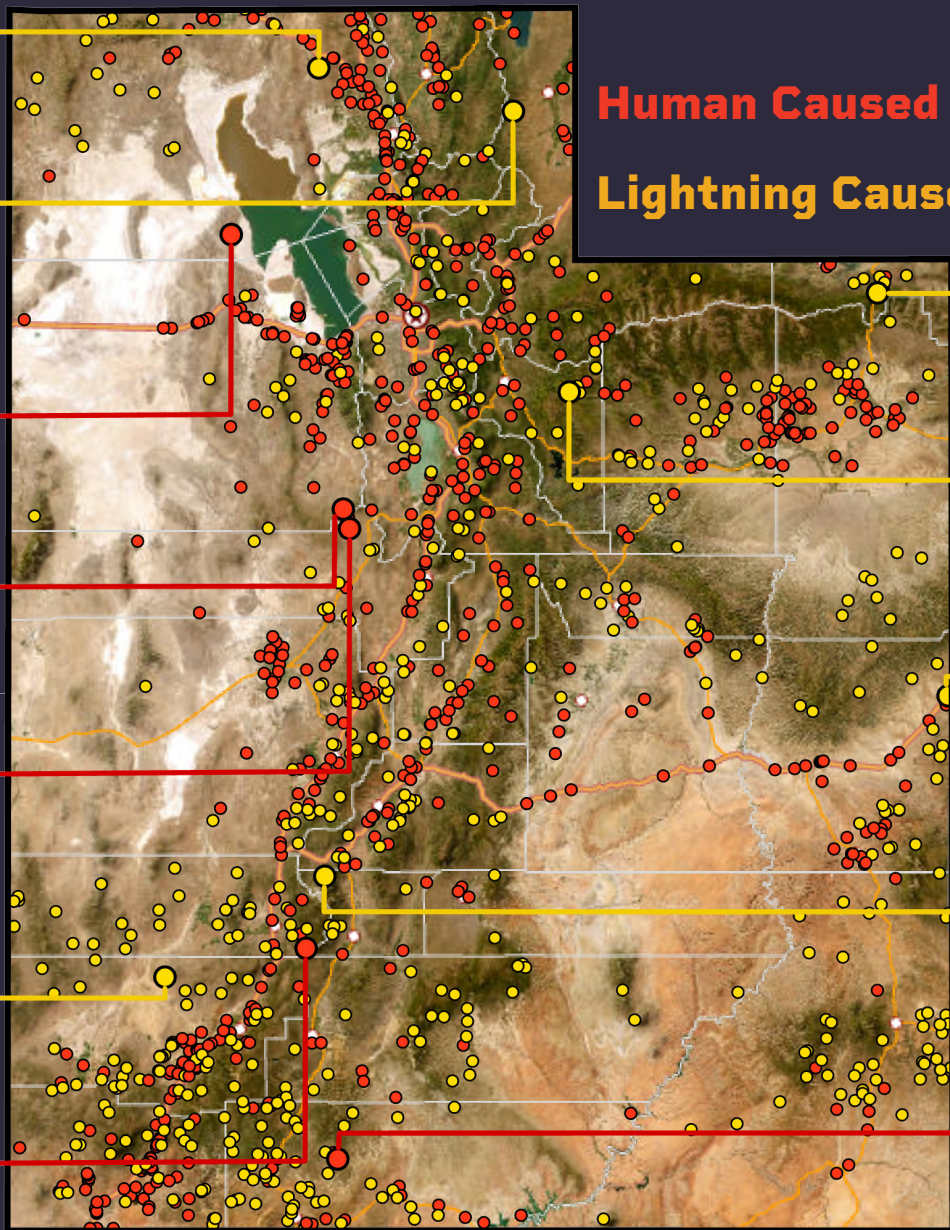
Speirs
715 acres

Yellow Lake
33,045 acres

Prairie
1,921 acres

Silver King
18,222 acres

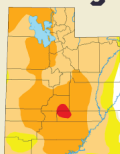
Deer Springs
11,766 acres



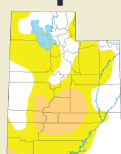
None



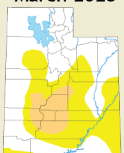
Drought Maps



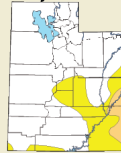
March 2023



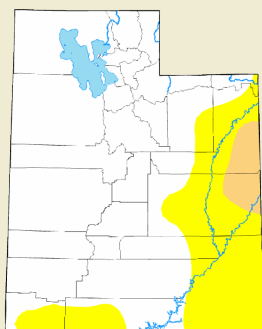
May 2023



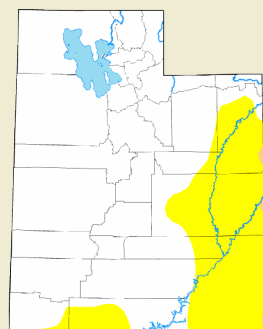
July 2023



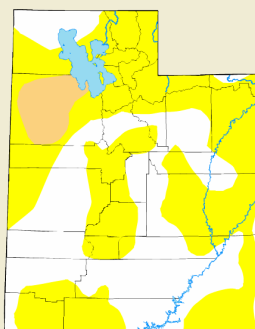
September 2023



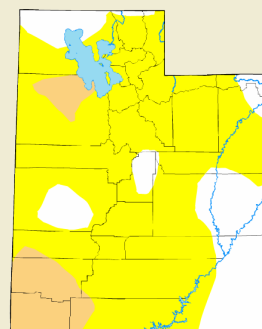
March



May



July



September

Exceptional

Out 2/3 the 10-year average



Fire Sense

A fire prevention initiative in partnership with the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands and federal agencies targets key behaviors that lead to human-caused wildfires in Utah. The campaign has successfully reduced the number of such fires by 43% since its launch in 2021, compared to the previous decade. Fire Sense's efforts have led to a significant decline in human-caused wildfires, demonstrating the effectiveness of its messaging and outreach.

Impact (2021-2024):

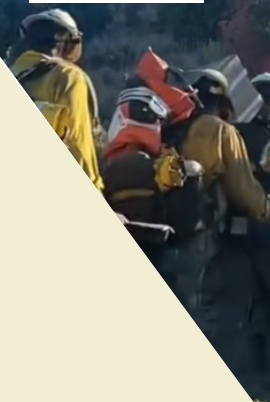
\$2.4M spent

1,193 fewer human-caused fires

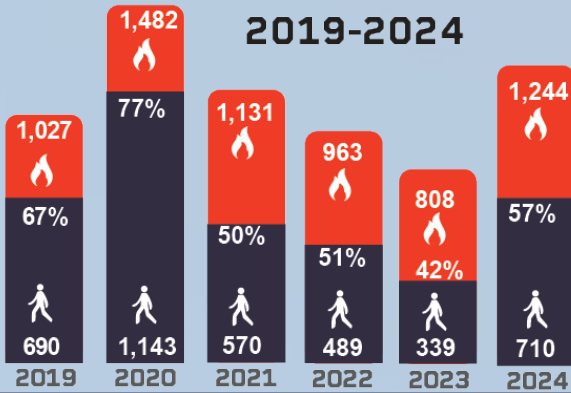
113,400 acres of land saved

\$28.5M in state funds saved

15:1 return on investment (for every \$1 spent, \$15 saved in suppression and damage costs).

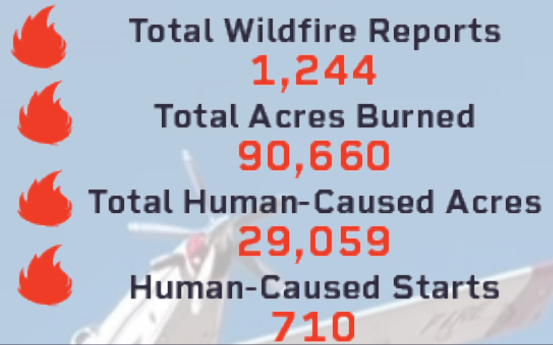


% of Human Caused Fires in Utah 2019-2024

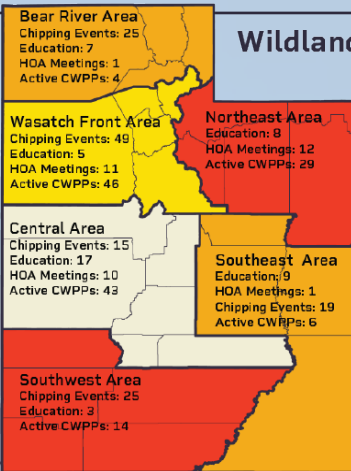


2024 Fire Season SUMMARY

(as of 10/31/24)



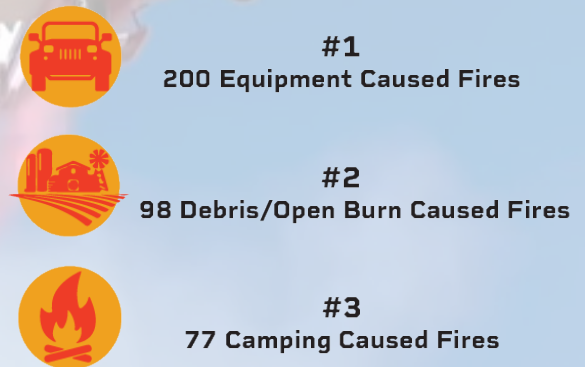
Wildland Urban Interface Events



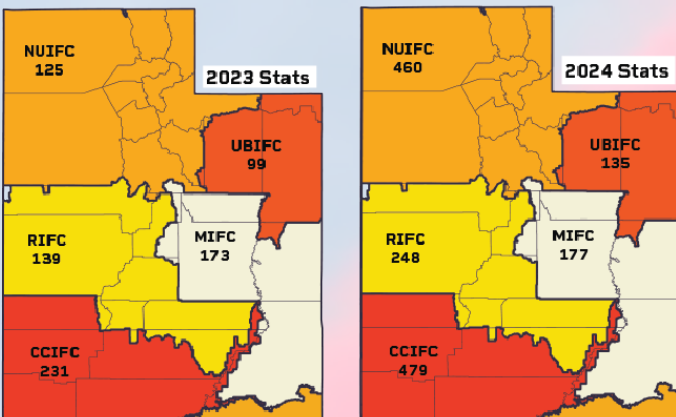
TOTALS:

49 Education Events
142 Active CWPPs (Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan)
35 HOA Meetings
 Employees engage with communities
115 Chipping Events
 Homeowner slash disposal

Top Three Human-Caused Starts



Fires by Dispatch Zone 2023-24



Fire Sense Saves Utah Millions

- 57%** of fires were human-caused
- 371** more human-caused fires **2023 vs 2024**
- \$159M** in state funding was spent on wildfire suppression from **2019-2024**
- 526K** acres were burned by wildfires from **2020-2024**
- 133** structures destroyed by wildfire **2019-2024**
- 93% CATCH RATE: 2024**
only **89** out of **1,244** fires exceeded **10** acres

RESOURCES

Diamond Fork Helitack

The Diamond Fork Helitack crew is part of FFSL's vision to enhance Utah's firefighting capabilities. For the 2024 season, FFSL contracted a Type 3 helicopter, improving aerial resources statewide. Established in March, the crew was operational by June 1, implementing the Specialized Technique Entry/Exit Procedure (STEP) for accessing hard-to-reach areas.

The crew served as a crucial resource for transporting firefighters and equipment to remote sites, responding to 46 dispatches, including 33 initial attacks, 7 extended attacks, and 6 dry runs. Of these incidents, 22 were human-caused, 22 were due to lightning, and 2 were undetermined.



Type 1 Helicopter Program



Type 1 helicopter program is in its third year of a five-year contract between Croman Helicopters and FFSL. Two Sikorsky S61 helicopters are contracted, with one based in Cedar City starting June 1 and the other in Spanish Fork from July 1. Each contract lasts 90 days, with potential extensions by mutual agreement. Type 1 helicopters were chosen to support the needs of the state of Utah, and FFSL maintains full operational control, requiring approval for any dispatch outside of Utah.

Lone Peak Center



Lone Peak (LP) resources play a key role in Utah's wildfire management program. These resources include two Hotshot crews, two Initial Attack hand crews, and two Type 4 Engines. In 2023, the Thunder Mountain Fuels Crew was created to focus on statewide fuel reduction projects and expanded from a 10-person squad to a 20-person crew in 2024. LP resources are available for fire suppression and hazardous fuels reduction projects from April through November, serving both local and national needs.

Interagency Wildfire Response

Most of Utah is covered by federal, state, or local wildfire suppression resources, with various agencies involved in firefighting, mitigation, and prevention. When a fire is reported, the nearest resource responds and takes action. After ensuring safety, all fires are fought aggressively. If resources are stretched thin, additional personnel from across the country may assist. Collaboration is essential for effective wildfire management in Utah.

Wildland Urban Interface

The Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) refers to areas where communities border forests and rangelands. As development expands into these wildfire-prone regions, fire suppression becomes more complex, dangerous, and costly. Utah has 681 "Communities at Risk" within or near the WUI. FFSL works with these communities to build relationships, provide education, and support fire adaptation efforts. Our approach is tailored to each area, focusing on proactive measures to reduce wildfire risk. These efforts, driven by FFSL employees, are proven to save homes and lives.

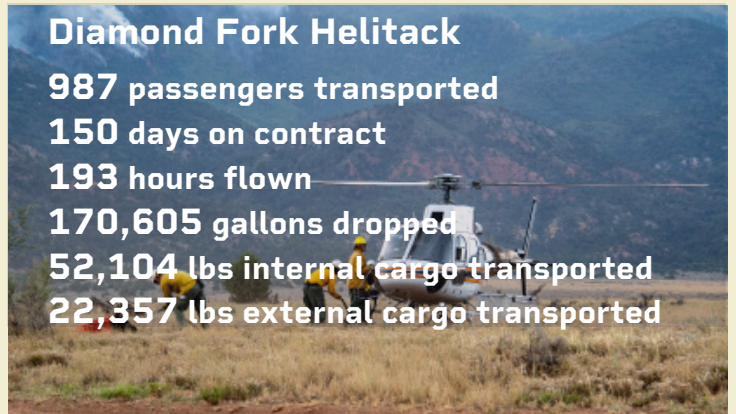


2024 Season by the Numbers



Diamond Fork Helitack

987 passengers transported
150 days on contract
193 hours flown
170,605 gallons dropped
52,104 lbs internal cargo transported
22,357 lbs external cargo transported



Type 1 Helicopters

300.8 hours flown for suppression efforts
1,025,777 gallons dropped



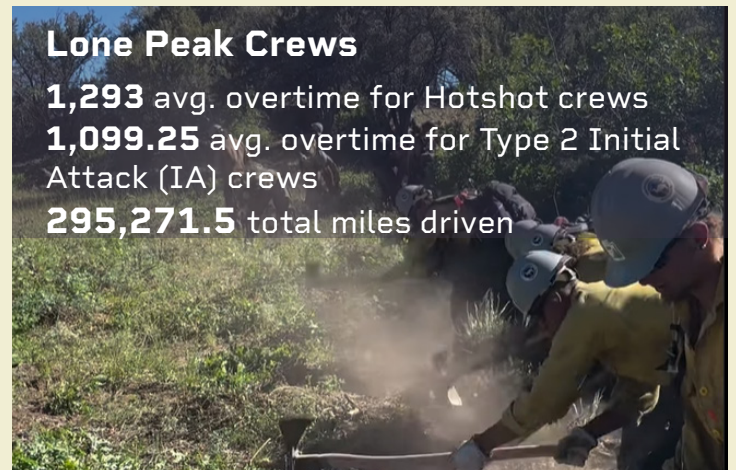
Lone Peak Center

188,478.75 hours assigned to an incident
125,509.5 total hazard hours
Responded to incidents in **10** states
6,095 total chainsaw tanks



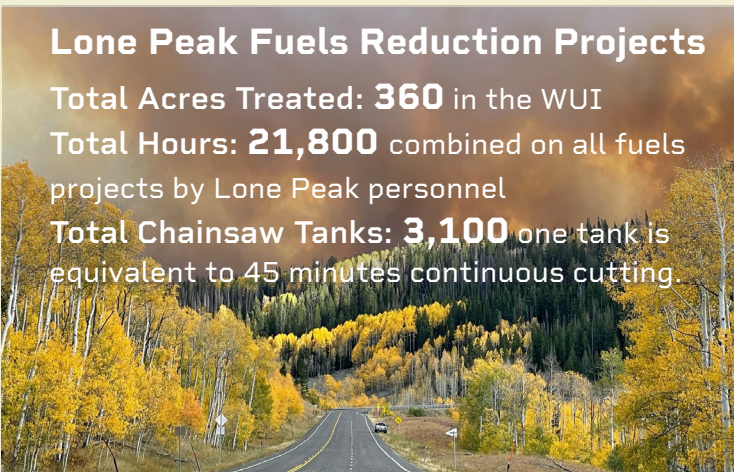
Lone Peak Crews

1,293 avg. overtime for Hotshot crews
1,099.25 avg. overtime for Type 2 Initial Attack (IA) crews
295,271.5 total miles driven



Lone Peak Fuels Reduction Projects

Total Acres Treated: **360** in the WUI
Total Hours: **21,800** combined on all fuels projects by Lone Peak personnel
Total Chainsaw Tanks: **3,100** one tank is equivalent to 45 minutes continuous cutting.



Engine Crews

744 average overtime hours

