

## **WILDFIRE REPORT**

**May 16, 2013**

In the past week, more than 60 wildfires burned in DNR protection areas around the state, including a massive forest fire in Douglas County. The main causes were debris burning and equipment. Fire danger has been High to Very High across the state, resulting in the suspension of DNR burning permits and the issuance of a Red Flag Warning in Florence and Marinette Counties Wednesday. Stay aware of the current fire danger for your area by checking our website: [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) (search 'fire danger').

**Firewise Tip:** Are there any branches close to power lines on your property? Ask the power company to clear them.

**Cumberland Dispatch Group** responded to 7 wildland fires for the week which burned a total of 8.5 acres. Of note, 6 structures were saved due to quick actions by arriving initial attack units. Two structures were lost, one of which was a pole shed containing an entire collection of carnival rides and equipment. Fire causes contained a higher percentage of miscellaneous outdoor activity such as welding or grinding activities and ash disposal which is reflective of the dry conditions. Staff remains stretched thin as resources are still committed to the Germann Fire in Douglas County.

**Brule Dispatch Group** - A massive forest fire burned 8,495 acres in Douglas County. Named the Germann Road Fire, it consumed 47 structures, including 17 homes. An additional 77 structures were threatened by the fire, yet ultimately saved with firefighter assistance. Evacuations occurred throughout area. The partnership effort to contain this fire has been incredible. Assistance came in the form of people, equipment, and aircraft from 37 fire departments, Minnesota DNR, Michigan DNR, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, US Forest Service, state patrol, sheriff's departments, Department of Transportation, state and county emergency management, Red Cross, the Drummond High School and likely many others. DNR fire control staff from other dispatch groups were moved to assist in fire suppression and incident command efforts. The fire was contained at 9pm Wednesday night. Crews will continue for days to put out hotspots and mop up the burned area. No injuries have been reported. The cause of the fire was determined to be logging equipment. Governor Walker is visiting the area Thursday and will be holding a press conference. A web site was established for the media and public wishing to keep informed about the fire: [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) (keyword "Germann Road Fire").

**Park Falls Dispatch** – Two Taylor County fires were determined to be intentionally set, burning 17 acres and 11 acres. A 9-acre Price County wildfire was caused when a debris/trash pile that had been burned when there was snow on the ground reignited. This is a reminder to people to make sure that any fire you start is completely out. Douse any burned debris pile, campfire, or ash disposal with plenty of water, stir, and keep adding water until the fire is out cold!

**Woodruff Dispatch Group** – Six wildfires burned three acres in the past week.

**Peshtigo Dispatch Group** - Eleven wildfires burned over eight acres in the past week. Heightened fire weather on Wednesday called for a Red Flag Warning in Florence and Marinette counties.

**Black River Falls Dispatch Group** - In the last week, fire staff responded to 7 wildfires totaling just over 5 acres. Fire causes varied but included debris burning, equipment and even a structure fire. A sawmill caught fire in Chippewa County and caused 4 separate wildfires which totaled around 3 acres. Suppression was time-consuming due to the windy conditions and difficult access.

**Wisconsin Rapids Dispatch Group** - In the last week, fire control staff responded to 9 fires totaling about 17 acres. The largest wildfire was a 14 acre fire in Adams County. Significant fire behavior occurred during the evening hours when we normally expect fire behavior to moderate. That's a testament to the dangerous fire conditions we've seen over the last several days. Remember to be careful with any outdoor activities that require an open flame or the use of equipment that can throw sparks.

**Dodgeville Dispatch Group** - Nine wildfires burned four acres this past week.