

2024 WILDLAND SEASON SUMMARY

SCOTTSDALE FIRE DEPARTMENT

TRAINING -

NWCG S130-S190 – FIREFIGHTER TRAINING & INTRO TO WILDLAND FIRE BEHAVIOR

Every firefighter in the organization receives this training while in the fire academy and yearly all firefighters receive a refresher course on this information.

Looking at future opportunities to enhance wildfire training delivery throughout the organization to address all levels from operations to behind the scenes administrative and logistical support.

This year all Fire Department Chief Officers and Police Department Command Staff participated in a tabletop training exercise addressing unified command and evacuation needs in a wildland urban interface setting. The objectives for the training were:

- **Coordination and Command:** Establish a unified command structure and coordinate actions between police, fire & emergency services.
- **Evacuation Planning:** Develop a comprehensive evacuation plan, including triggers, routes, shelters and transportation.
- **Public Communication:** Strategize effective communication channels and messages to inform and guide the public.
- **Reunification:** Set up a plan for family reunification in evacuation centers.
- **Rescue Operations:** Develop Strategies to rescue stranded citizens and livestock
- **Resource Management:** Assess and Allocate Resources Efficiently.

RESPONSE

05/12/24 First day of Brush Staffing
09/01/24 Last day of Brush Staffing

*Peak time staffing -
4 Type 6 brush trucks 0800-1900 hrs daily*

The basic parameters for the implementation of brush staffing:

- Alarm rooms (Phoenix/Mesa) short of brush assets due to fire responses. (Auto-aid) (increase in call volume)
- 5 consecutive days over 105 degrees.
- 3 consecutive days when minimum Rh values are less than 10%. (Zone AZ 132) (Daytime)
Fire Weather
- 3 consecutive days when maximum Rh values are less than 20%. (Zone AZ 132) (Nighttime)
Fire Weather

SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT: BOULDER VIEW FIRE 3700-3800 ACRES

Started near a construction site in Scottsdale and immediately pushed on to State Land and TNF.

The location of the fire and weather conditions created unpredictable fire behavior which threatened the McDowell Sonoran Preserve (10-12 acres impacted) and threatened the unincorporated area of Maricopa County along the 136th St. alignment to the east. Also known as the Rio Verde Foothills.

RELATIONSHIPS/STAKEHOLDERS

Key relationships and stakeholders help make managing wildland firefighting issues easier.

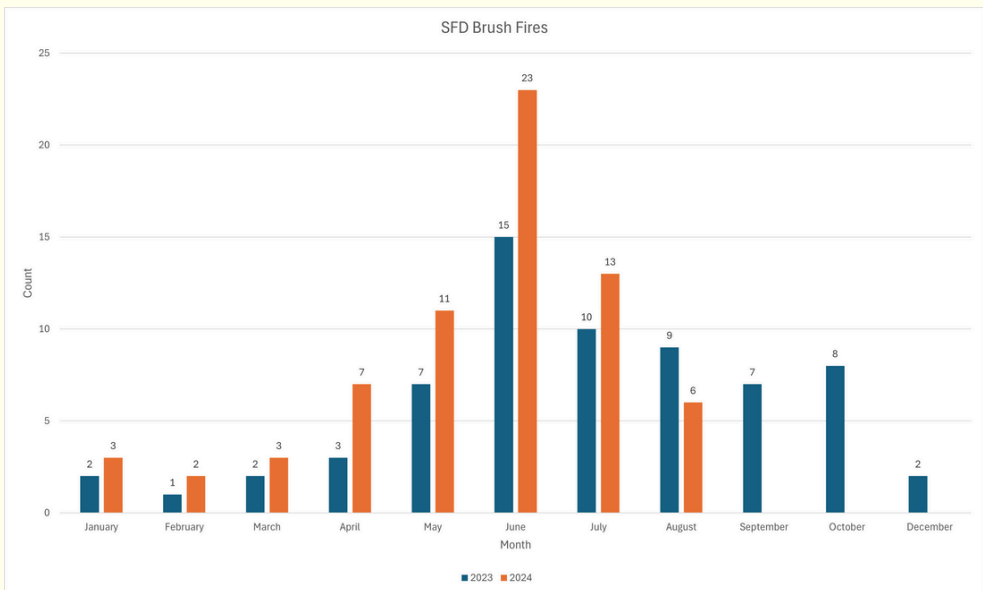
- Tonto National Forest (TNF)
- Department of Fire and Forestry Management (DFFM)
- McDowell Sonoran Preserve
- McDowell Mountain Regional Park
- Regional Auto-Aid Partners
- Scottsdale Police Department/other key law Enforcement agencies
- Emergency Management partners – State, County, Local





Brush fire starts in Scottsdale increased from 2023 to 2024 for each month into August.

Mitigation efforts that include the awareness and assistance of residents, business owners and contractors is key to reducing risks of devastating wildfires.



WILDFIRE PREVENTION

SFD does not have a “down season” when it comes to protecting lives and property during the Wildland Fire season. Planning, practicing, training and educating takes place year-round and is a continual process.

Healthy Forest Initiative (HFI) grant work

Mostly physical removal and trimming along roadways to create roadway fire breaks and remove starter fuels near vehicles. This is a grant-funded project that focuses on targeted high-risk areas.

Firewise designations

According to NFPA, Scottsdale has the most Firewise HOAs, with 20 active in 2024, and the largest -- DC Ranch. Desert Mountain community will soon be added.

Construction Site Safety Inspections

Site managers are informed of the safety actions expected on their construction sites. There are spot checks by inspectors in the area. This allows for face-to-face interactions and immediate corrections for safety hazards.

Hazardous Vegetation Assessments

Brush Patrol units assess residential neighborhoods for defensible space issues. Using a special GIS application, houses are identified for follow-up. Mailers are sent to the resident and a trained Firewise specialists then reassess the property and indicates whether concerns were addressed or if hazards remain. 33,733 locations were reviewed; 348 homes were identified with issues.