

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES



**SPECIAL ORDER**

2009.075



Originating From	Issue Date	Expiration Date	Attachments
<b>Operations</b>	<b>12/23/09</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>A</b>

**SUBJECT: Maryland DNR Forest Service  
Wildfire Response Protocol Changes**

**APPLICABILITY: All Uniformed Personnel and  
Communications, 911 Call-taking and Fire Dispatch**

1. Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Forestry Service has changed their policy pertaining to their *Wildfire Response Protocols* as outlined in Attachment A, entitled Maryland DNR Forest Service Wildfire Response Protocols November 2009.

1.1 Notification shall be made to Maryland DNR for all incidents occurring on DNR lands.

2. The DNR Forest Service will respond at the request of a fire department official as outlined in the *Initial Attack Response Protocols*.

2.1 The fire department determines they cannot safely manage the incident due to wildfire complexity.

2.2 The wildfire is one acre in size or greater.

2.3 The wildfire is imminently threatening lives or structures.

2.4 The wildfire is adjacent to and threatening DNR lands, generally within ¼ mile distances under normal fire behavior.

2.5 A tractor plow is needed to contain and control the wildfire.

2.6 No fire department resources are available within their first due area.

3. Law enforcement burning complaints as listed in *Non-Approved Request* are not applicable unless the wildfire occurs on DNR property.

3.1 Illegal and open burns will be handled in accordance with DFRS General Order #610.11, Open Fires, Recreational Fire and Outdoor Cooking, Heating or Other Similar Devices.

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- 3.2 DFRS Office of the Fire Marshal, Environmental Health, and County Police are the enforcement agencies for incidents within Howard County.
4. DFRS will not alter or modify any initial response plans due to the protocol changes.
5. All requests for DNR Forestry or Natural Resources Police shall be made through "Howard" Communications.

Approved:

*Charles M. Sharpe*

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Charles M. Sharpe  
Deputy Chief, Operations Command



## **Maryland DNR Forest Service**

### **Wildfire Response Protocols**

**November 2009**

# Wildfire Response Protocols

1. Why the Change in Policy?
2. Response Areas
3. Points of Contact
4. Initial Attack Response
5. Other Responses
6. Non-Approved Request

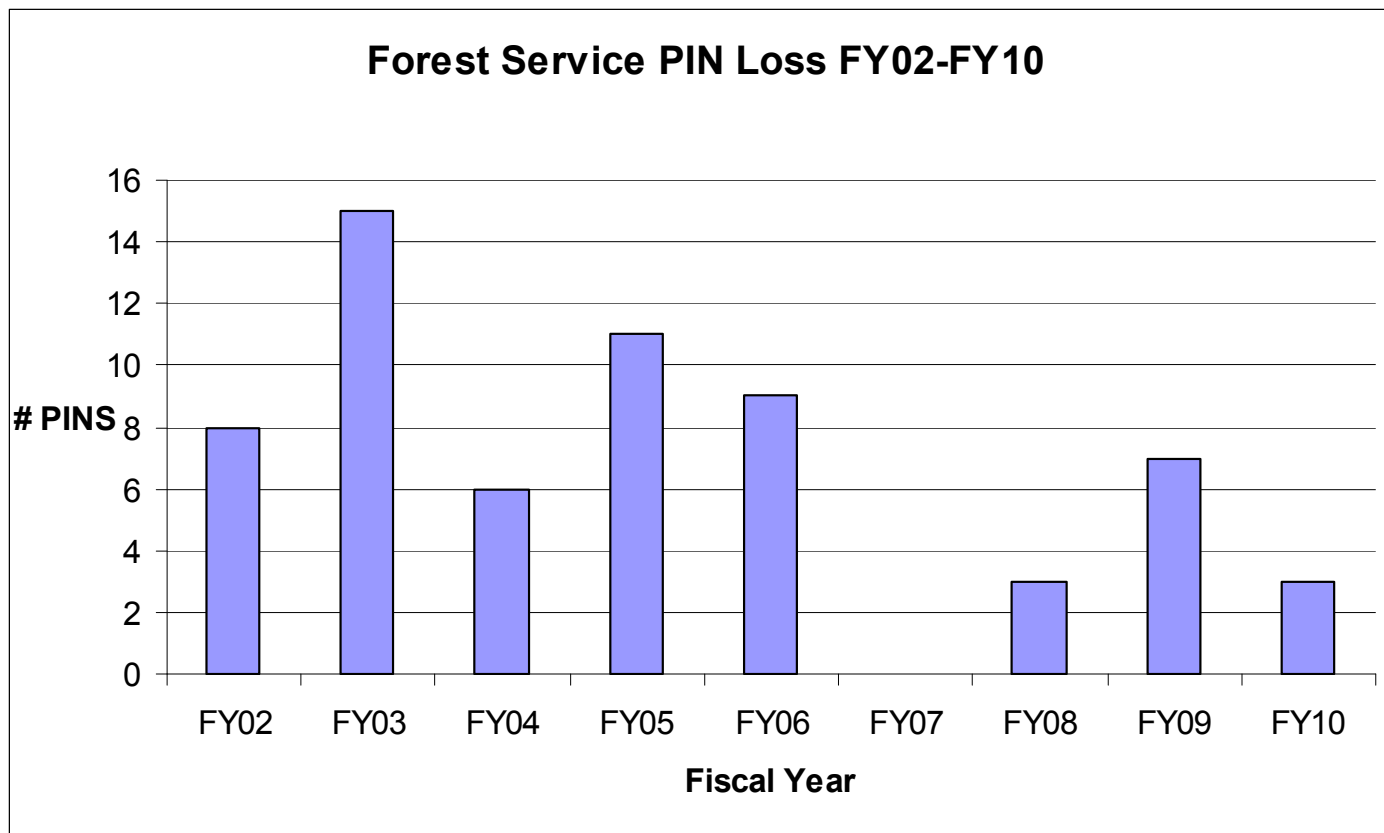
# The Need For Change....

## Loss of Staff and Funding Resources

- Loss of 63 positions from FY02 - FY10
- Overall net loss of 37% of the workforce
- Significant decline in agency budgets and available resources

# Loss of Positions 2002-2009\*

\*Graph as of August 1, 2009



# Forest Service Response Areas

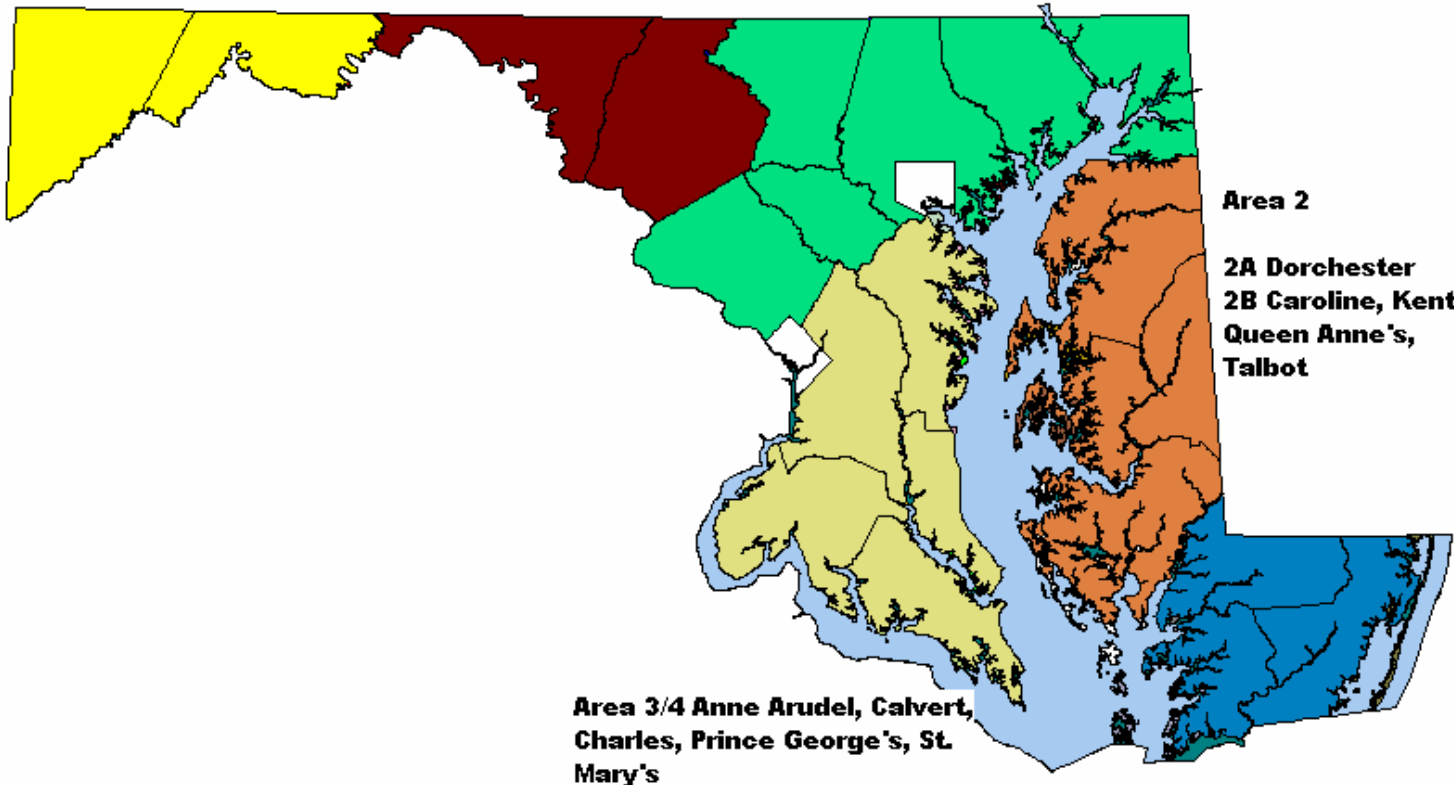
- Area 1 Somerset, Wicomico, & Worcester
- Area 2 2A Dorchester;  
2B Caroline, Kent, Queen Anne's & Talbot
- Area 3/4 Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles,  
Prince George's, St. Mary's
- Area 5/6 Baltimore, Carroll, Cecil, Harford,  
Howard, Montgomery
- Area 7 Frederick & Washington
- Area 8 Allegany & Garrett

# Forest Service Response Areas

**Area 8 Allegany / Garrett**

**Area 7 Frederick / Washington**

**Area 5/6 Baltimore, Carroll, Cecil,  
Harford, Howard, Montgomery**



**Area 2**

**2A Dorchester  
2B Caroline, Kent,  
Queen Anne's,  
Talbot**

**Area 3/4 Anne Arundel, Calvert,  
Charles, Prince George's, St.  
Mary's**

**Area 1 Somerset,  
Wicomico, Worcester**



# Points of Contact

Forest Service prepares a monthly Fire Schedule. The schedule includes...

- 24/7 coverage with an assigned...
  - State Duty Officer &
  - One Point of Contact (POC) for each of the outlined Response Areas
- POC will determine if request meets protocols for response

# Initial Attack Response Protocols

## The Forest Service will respond if:

- requested by a fire department official given any one of the following situations:
  - The Fire Departments determines they cannot safely manage the incident due to wildfire complexity
  - The wildfire is one acre in size or greater
  - The wildfire is imminently threatening lives or structures
  - The wildfire is adjacent to and threatening DNR lands, generally within ¼ mile distance under normal fire behavior
  - A tractor plow is needed to contain and control the wildfire
  - No Fire Department resources are available within their first due area
- the employee sees a wildfire
- the wildfire is on DNR owned or managed lands

# Other Responses

During normal business hours employees will also...

- Conduct mop up operations on contained incidents one acre or greater in size
- On request of a fire department official check and secure contained wildfire incidents
- On request, conduct wildfire investigations regardless of size or ownership and follow through on any needed education or enforcement actions

# Other Responses

- Employees may also respond after hours at the request of a fire department official to secure a fire scene and preserve and collect evidence found at the scene.
- Employees will also respond to all hazard type requests at the direction of the Forest Service State Duty Officer arising from request from MEMA.

# Non-Approved Request

The Forest Service will not respond to the following types of request...

- Single tree fires
- Hay bale fires
- Law enforcement burning complaints – refer to Natural Resources Police 410-260-8888
- Smoke complaints – refer to county Environmental Health Department
- Non-wildfire type request from local jurisdictions

# For More Information....



Maryland DNR Forest Service  
Wildland Fire Management Program

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