

Mary Weaver

From: John Miller <John.Miller@dof.virginia.gov> on behalf of John Miller
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 7:07 AM
To: DOF-ALL EMPLOYEES
Subject: The Branch
Attachments: 2022-02-14final.pdf

Good morning!

I've been tagged for the Branch this week to help highlight the start of our spring wildfire season. We saw yet another light fire year in 2021, with 558 wildfires for 6,649 acres. Those numbers are pretty much in line with our most recent ten-year average (2012-2021). Our largest wildfire of 2021 was a 1,730 acre fire in Rockingham County.

As we move into our 2022 season, weather forecasts into early summer predict warmer than normal temperatures and normal levels of precipitation for the period. The general expectation is for 2022 to be an average fire year in Virginia. Let me also take this chance to urge everyone to make sure of your personal and equipment readiness as the season begins. We will be running a centralized weekend dispatch on Friday – Sunday for every weekend of the spring fire season, and our Firesponse application will serve as the backbone of our overall effort.

Last minute breaking news: we are a go for our fire training academy to be at Longwood University again this year (May 25 – 28, 2022). The full details for the academy as well as the announcement of our two-week DOF-only registration period will be coming out in next week's issue of the Branch.

Finally, let me just say thanks to each one of you for the job you do, and please reach out to fire staff for anything that we might can help you with heading into the spring fire season.

Thanks, John