



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY PROTECTS MORE THAN 1,000 HOMES AND STRUCTURES THIS SPRING FIRE SEASON**

*Efforts credited with protecting property with estimated value of \$163 million*

**CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA** – During Virginia’s spring fire season this year (Feb. 15 to April 30), Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF) firefighters – working alongside numerous local, state and federal partners – responded to 411 wildfires that burned nearly 20,000 acres, the most burned during a spring fire season in the last 30 years. For comparison, during the 2023 spring fire season, 330 wildfires burned 2,174 acres.

Spring fires damaged 29 homes and 28 structures, with DOF suppression efforts credited with protecting an additional 750 homes and 400 structures worth approximately \$163 million. Wildfire activity peaked on March 20, when especially low relative humidity combined with gusty winds to spark 88 wildfires in less than 24 hours.

“Weather conditions this spring fire season were severe, with extended dry spells and persistent winds,” said DOF Chief of Fire and Emergency Response John Miller. “Unfortunately, homes were lost this season, however many more were protected from being damaged or destroyed due to the training, quick response and collaboration between DOF, local and partner firefighters.”

The largest wildfires in Virginia this spring were:

- **211 West Fire, Page County: 6,390 acres**
- **Brushy Run Fire, Rockingham County: 2,530 acres**
- **Rocky Branch Fire, Page County: 1,030 acres**
- **Serenity Ridge Fire, Page County: 875 acres**
- **Moore Hollow Fire, Lee County: 525 acres**

Although the spring fire season has ended and the 4 p.m. burning law is no longer in effect, the threat of wildfire is always present. Monitor the weather and use smart burning practices when planning to have a fire. As always, to report a fire, call 911.

To learn more about protecting your property from fire, visit [DOF's website](#).

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