



**For immediate release  
June 25, 2009**

**Contact: Wendy Fox  
617-626-1453**

## **PATRICK ADMINISTRATION SENDS 21 FIREFIGHTERS TO HELP BATTLE BLAZES IN NORTHERN QUEBEC**

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) today sent 21 state firefighters to northern Quebec to help battle the wildfires that have been raging across that Canadian province since June 19.

DCR Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr. responded to a request from the Northeastern Forest Fire Protection Compact for a crew from the Commonwealth. The DCR firefighters will join crews from other New England states in a rural area near Hudson Bay, about **300 miles north of Quebec City**. The area has seen more than 30 recent lightning strikes, causing fires that have been burning for nearly a week.

“We are extremely proud of the DCR firefighters who have been called upon to help the province of Quebec,” said DCR Commissioner Sullivan. “These are extremely well-trained and dedicated firefighters whose skills are needed there, and whose help, we know, is enormously appreciated.”

Massachusetts has been sending firefighters to help other states since 1985. The firefighters in question are federally certified for the work, having passed a 40-hour firefighting class and physical fitness test. All of DCR’s 34 full-time and 53 seasonal firefighters have taken the 40-hour course.

The DCR crew is called a “Type 2 hand crew,” and will engage in direct fire suppression. Crew members will work on the fire line building fire breaks, securing fire perimeters, containing fires, and protecting structures. For the most part, the firefighters will sleep in tents on the ground in fire camps.

The Northeastern Forest Fire Protection Compact is a partnership among the six New England states, New York, and the Canadian provinces of New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, and Quebec. The Quebec Society for the Prevention of Forest Fires (La Société de Protection des Forêts Contre le Feu) will pay all expenses of the out-of-state crews, including salary, transportation, lodging, and food.

These DCR fire fighters are going to Quebec:

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS · EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

Department of Conservation and Recreation  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 600  
Boston MA 02114-2119  
617-626-1250 617-626-1351 Fax  
[www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr)



Deval L. Patrick  
Governor

Timothy P. Murray  
Lt. Governor

Ian A. Bowles, Secretary, Executive  
Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Richard K. Sullivan, Jr., Commissioner  
Department of Conservation & Recreation

Mark Teixeira (crew chief), South Dartmouth  
Robert Ashton, Leominster  
Robert Bromley, Whitinsville  
Shawn Bush, Sutton  
Phillip Dupell, Orange  
Jonathan Eggleston, Townsend  
Richard Greenwood, Peacham  
Jesse Hanecak, West Whately  
Christel Kalweit, Marstons Mills  
Roy Liard, Millville  
Jameson Lockhart, Florence  
Jacob Martinez, Florence  
William Muise, Marlborough  
Matthew Moniz, Littleton  
Nicholas Neilan, Dartmouth  
Millard Ring, Rockport  
Ronald Sawyer, Natick  
Matthew Simonson, Dedham  
Christopher Siwik, Fairhaven  
Jeffrey Tirrell, Buzzards Bay  
Gregory Whittier, Springfield

###

*The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, dams, and parkways. Led by Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr., the agency's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit [www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr). Contact us at [mass.parks@state.ma.us](mailto:mass.parks@state.ma.us).*