

# Wildland Fire Management Current Drought Impacts

## •Fire Statistics

- 1,171 Fires YTD for 764 Acres burned, 266 DCR Fire responses

- June: 135 Fires

- July: 63 Fires

- August: 112 Fires

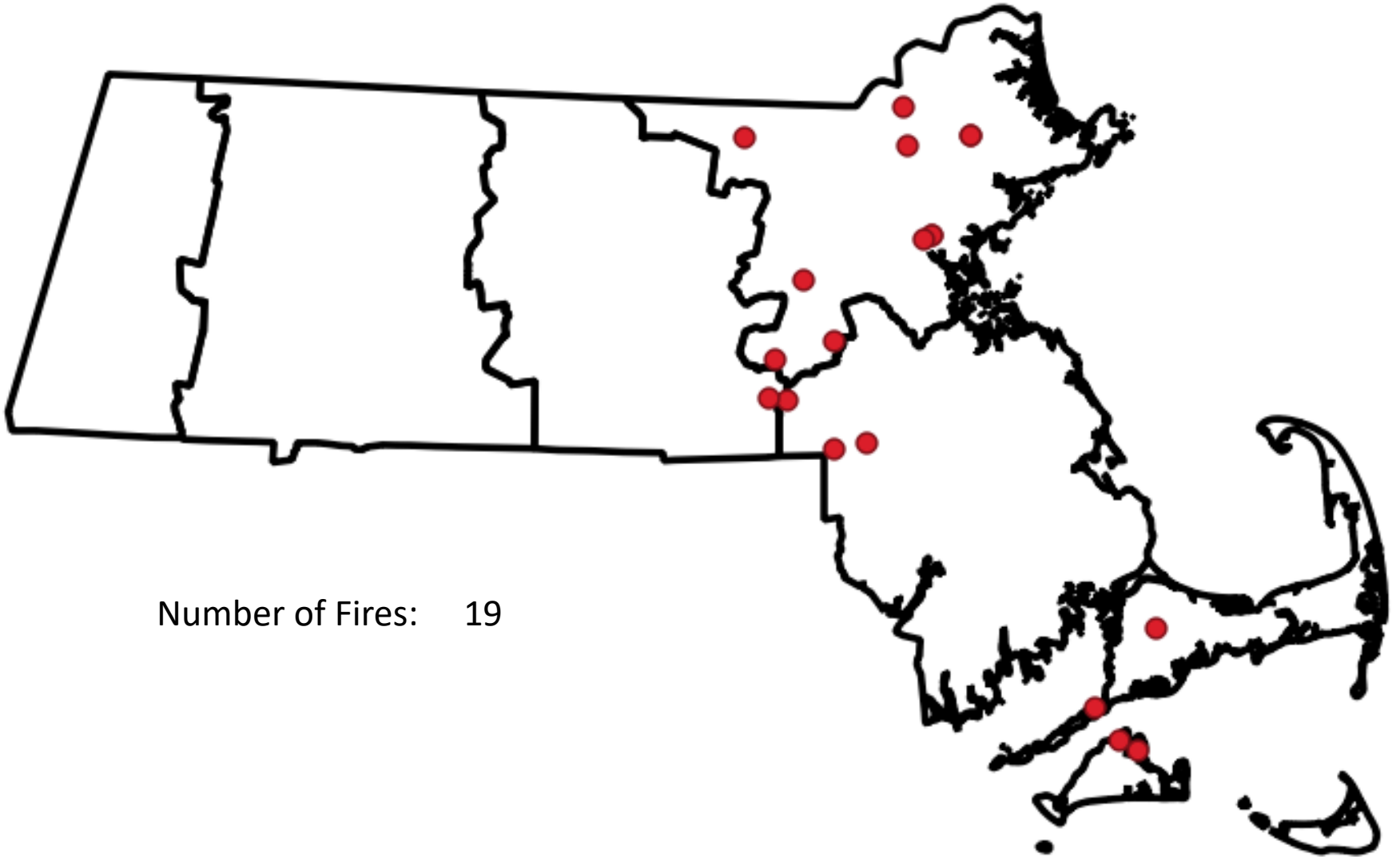
- September: 130 Fires

- OCTOBER: 19 Fires (All in first half of the month)**

## •Drought Impacts on Fire Behavior and Suppression:

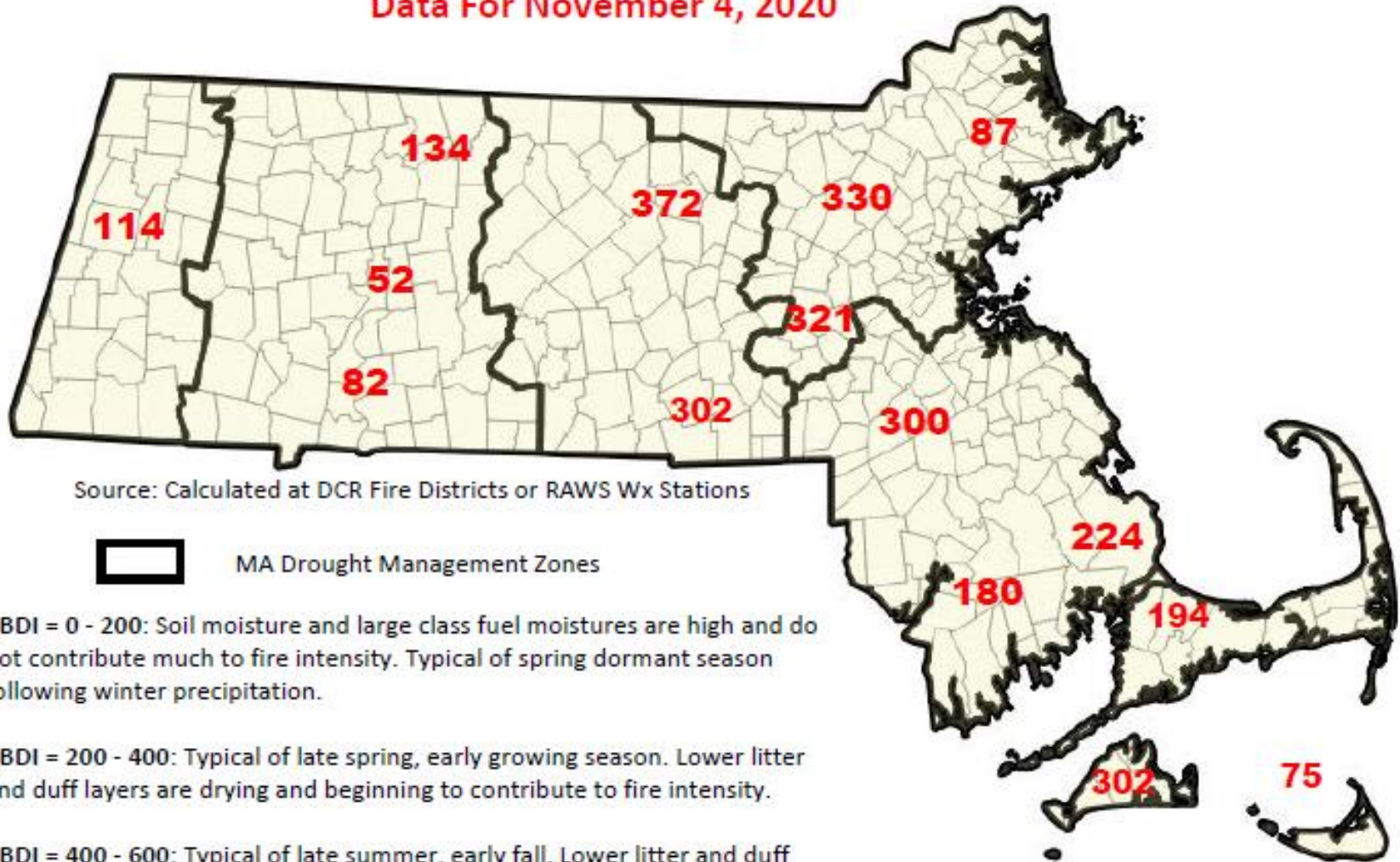
- Drought induced Fire Behavior diminished with cooler temps and much needed precipitation.
- Surface fuels received moisture during 2<sup>nd</sup> half of October, lowering ignition potential and higher rates of spread.
- DCR Seasonal Fire staff extended through October 17<sup>th</sup>. Ended after change in weather pattern.
- Leaf drop and pine needle drop almost complete. Will be available for ignition during next 7 days of drying. Fuel moistures in lower leaf litter and cooler seasonable temps “should” keep rates of spread moderated.
- Recent precipitation, cooler temps, and higher RH has moderated Fire Danger Rating across MA, RI, CT, NH and parts of ME in last week.

FIRE OCCURRENCE MAP  
**OCTOBER 2020**



Number of Fires: 19

## Keetch – Byram Drought Index Data For November 4, 2020



KBDI = 0 - 200: Soil moisture and large class fuel moistures are high and do not contribute much to fire intensity. Typical of spring dormant season following winter precipitation.

KBDI = 200 - 400: Typical of late spring, early growing season. Lower litter and duff layers are drying and beginning to contribute to fire intensity.

KBDI = 400 - 600: Typical of late summer, early fall. Lower litter and duff layers actively contribute to fire intensity and will burn actively.

KBDI = 600 - 800: Often associated with more severe drought with increased wildfire occurrence. Intense, deep burning fires with significant downwind spotting can be expected. Live fuels can also be expected to burn actively at these levels.