

# Wildland Fire Management Current Drought Impacts

## •Fire Statistics

- 1078 Fires YTD for 729 Acres burned, 255 DCR Fire responses
  - June: 135 Fires
  - July: 63 Fires
  - August: 112 Fires
  - September: 130 Fires (52 Fires in last 9 Days of September)

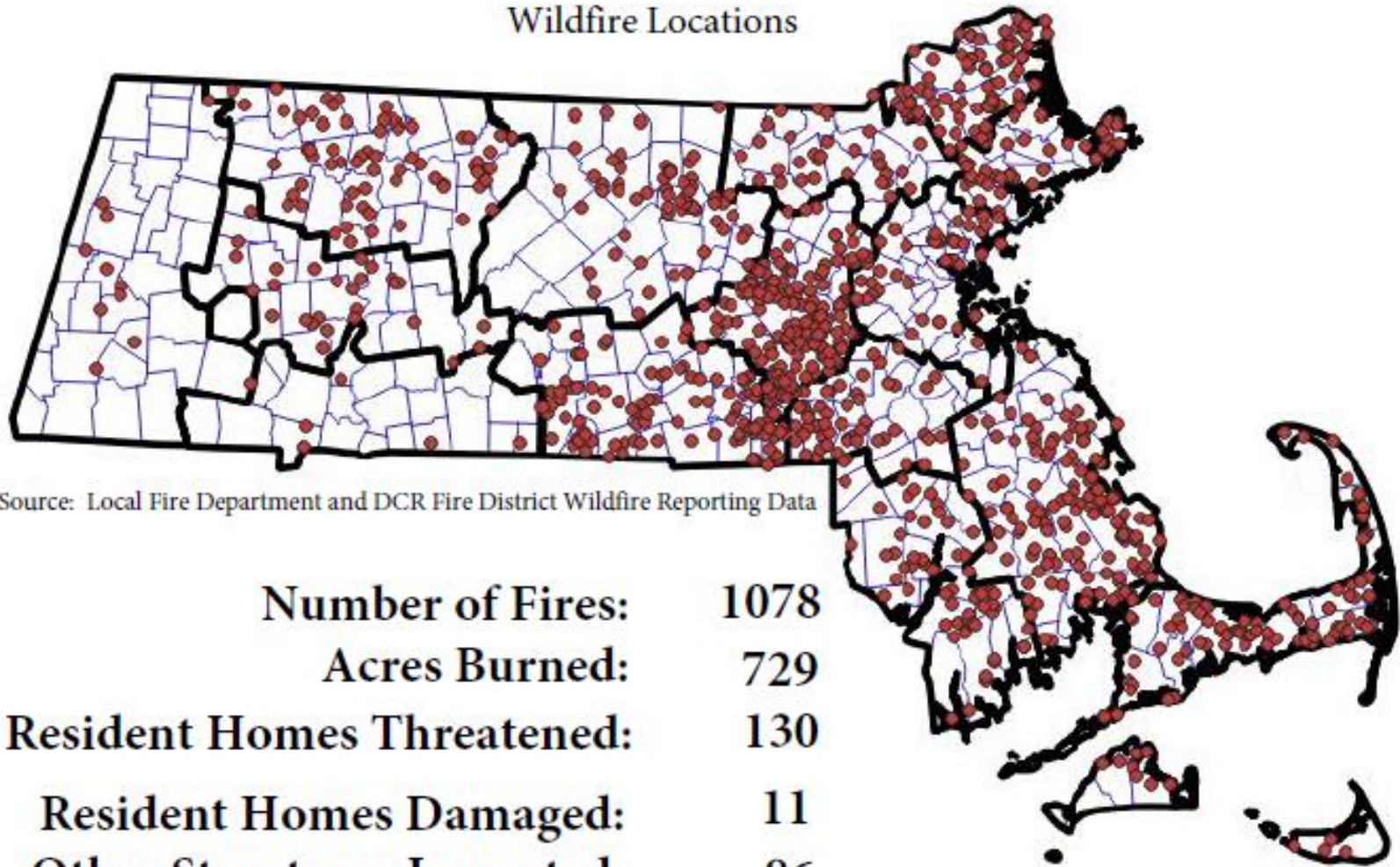
## •Drought Impacts on Fire Behavior and Suppression:

- Continued drought induced fire behavior conditions across the region.
- Most fires, regardless of size, burning deep into ground resulting in multi day operations, and risk of escape.
- Fire Tower operations working to assist towns with early detection, helping FD's with keeping fires small.
- Leaf drop and pine needle drop starting to add to the surface fuel loads, which will challenge containment of ongoing fires.
- Recent precipitation, cooler temps, and higher RH has moderated Fire Danger Rating across MA, RI, CT, NH and parts of ME in last week.
- Much needed RAIN across the state end of last week lowered KBDI values in west. Little precip amounts in Southeast had little effect on KBDI.

# MASSACHUSETTS WILDFIRE OCCURRENCE MAP

## Year to Date 10-6-20

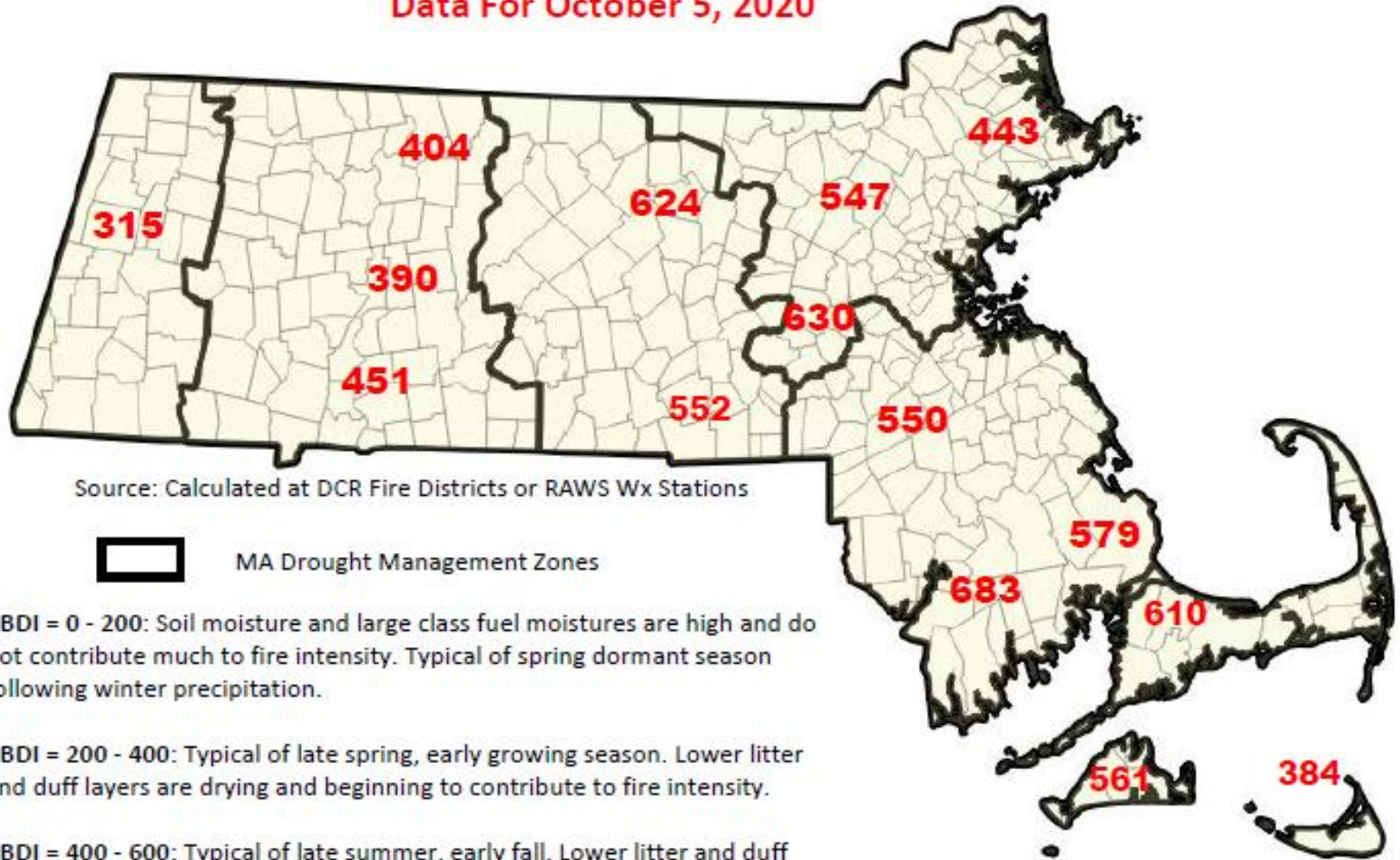
Wildfire Locations



Source: Local Fire Department and DCR Fire District Wildfire Reporting Data

<b>Number of Fires:</b>	<b>1078</b>
<b>Acres Burned:</b>	<b>729</b>
<b>Resident Homes Threatened:</b>	<b>130</b>
<b>Resident Homes Damaged:</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Other Structures Impacted:</b>	<b>86</b>
<b>Number of DCR Fire Responses:</b>	<b>255</b>

## Keetch – Byram Drought Index Data For October 5, 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.

Kings Pond Plain Fire MA 9.27.2020

