

**LEGISLATIVE STUDY  
COMMISSION TO  
EVALUATE AND PROVIDE  
RECOMMENDATIONS ON  
PROPER FOREST  
MANAGEMENT FOR FIRE  
PREVENTION**

Controlled fire by RI DEM, Spring  
2023.



The Department of Environmental Management is the lead department in Rhode Island.

In Particular:

Within DEM is the Division Agriculture and Forest Environment.

A subsidiary within that Division is DEM's Forest Fire Program.

As you can see from this link, there are many programs within DEM that deal with fire and forest fire matters.

Take a look.

<https://dem.ri.gov/natural-resources-bureau/agriculture-and-forest-environment>



<https://dem.ri.gov/natural-resources-bureau/agriculture-and-forest-environment/forest-environment/forest-fire-program>



# Link to the Forest Fire Program within DEM

<https://dem.ri.gov/natural-resources-bureau/agriculture-and-forest-environment/forest-environment/forest-fire-program>



- DEM reported that it has increased its use of controlled burns (or “Prescribed Fires”) on state lands this year.
- Press release: <https://dem.ri.gov/press-releases/dem-announces-it-will-increase-use-prescribed-burns-2023-help-restore-native>

DEM posts informative videos on Forest Fire Prevention on its website.

- [Homeowner and Community Resources | Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management \(ri.gov\)](#)
- HOW TO OUTWIT A FOREST FIRE pdf/image:
- [embers \(ri.gov\)](#)

# NATIONAL BEST PRACTICES

**Rhode Island is a member of the Northeastern Forest Fire Protection Commission.**

- Member States include:  
Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont.
- There are also Canadian Provinces who are members.

Link to the Compact:

<https://www.nffpc.org/en/about/overview>

- Contacts for Compact Can be found at this link:
- <https://www.nffpc.org/en/about/contacts>

# Rhode Island also works with other groups including the North Atlantic Fire Science Exchange

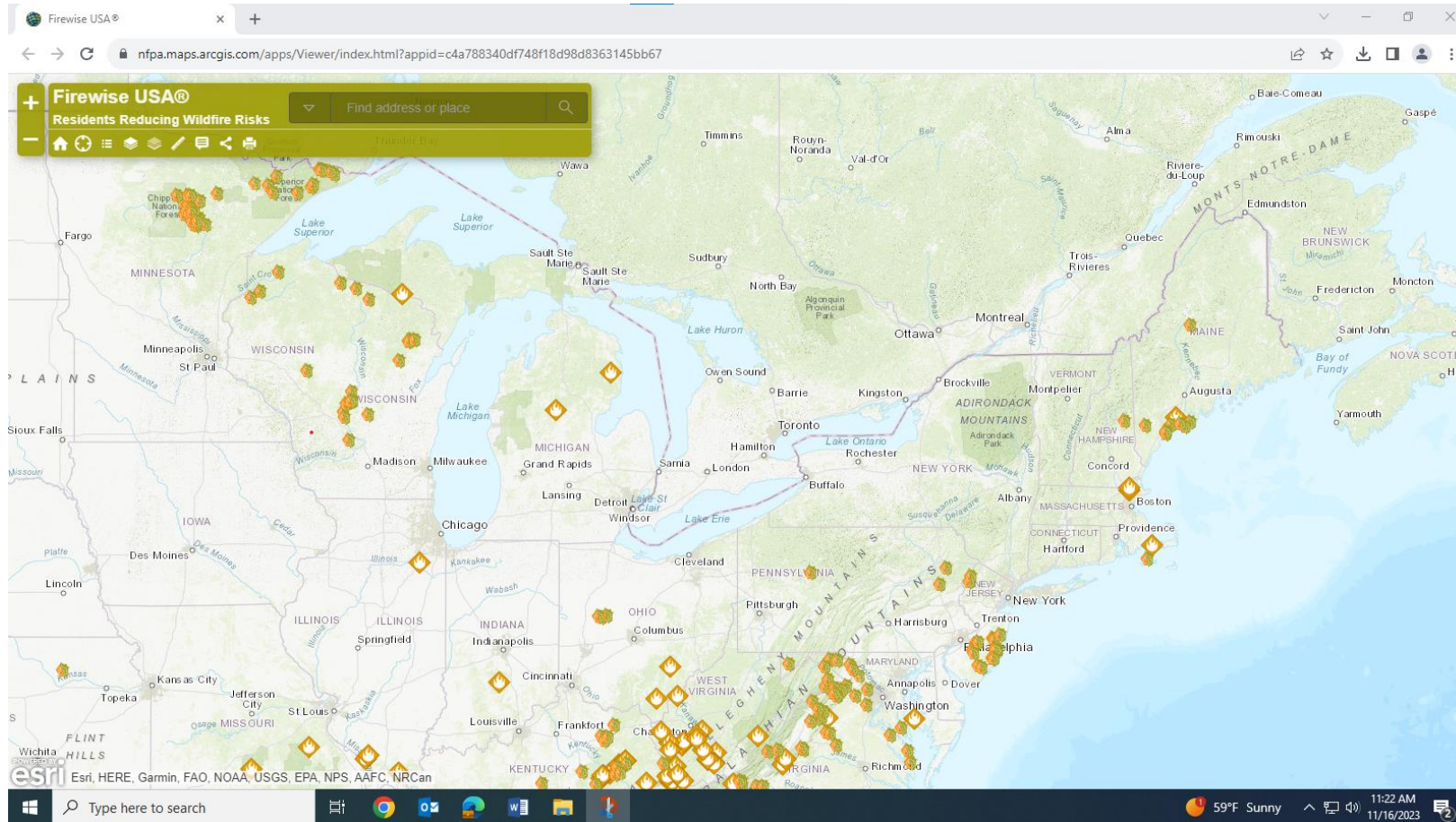
- Groups such as this may be worth reaching out to for further information on technical aspects of forest fire prevention.
- North Atlantic Fire Science Exchange Home Page:
- <https://www.firesciencenorthatlantic.org/>
- Link above is also source of image.



AT THE LOCAL LEVEL, FIRE WISE USA, PART OF THE NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION, WORKS WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO HELP THEM BECOME A “FIRE WISE COMMUNITY.”

- Home page of NFPA.org and short video clip.
- <https://www.nfpa.org/About-NFPA>

# There are no Fire Wise Communities showing on the NFPA Map in Rhode Island.



Source: NFPA, Firewise USA



# FURTHER WORK FOR COMMISSION

- Much of the information sought by this Commission can be found in the Rhode Island 2020 Forest Action Plan.
- This is 140 page document.
- The Executive Summary is linked here: [RI 2020 Forest Action Plan](#)
- For work beyond the Action Plan:
- Consider working with and through existing organizations and contacts.
- Utilizing these organizations and contacts, pursue more information on best practices.

Remember – When Smoky the Bear said “Only You” – he meant ALL THE COMMUNITY!



- Citation
- Unknown. 1989. “Only You .” Special Collections, USDA National Agricultural Library. Accessed November 16, 2023, <https://www.nal.usda.gov/exhibits/speccoll/items/show/459>.

# Questions?

THANK YOU.

All images are from RI DEM Website  
except where otherwise indicated.

