

D14 FY 2023 Annual Report of Fire Mobilization and Intra-District Strike Team

The District 14 (D14) Fire Mobilization encompasses management of the Intra-District Strike Team as well as the Statewide Fire Mobilization plan. This past year found the D14 assets that are part of this plan to be very busy.

On August 19, 2022 the City of Marlborough had a significant brush fire off of their Concord Rd. Shortly upon arrival the Incident Commander requested two D14 Forestry Strike Teams to the scene. Strike teams 14C and 14B worked throughout the night to contain the fire. The following morning Fire Districts 7 and 8 were on scene to provide mutual aid as part of the Statewide Mobilization Plan. Later on Saturday the 20th D14A Forestry Strike team was called in. On Sunday the 21st three additional Statewide Task Forces were called in from Districts 4, 7 and 8. After three long and arduous days the fire was deemed controlled at the end of the day on Sunday.

On February 7, 2023 the City of Brockton had a 10 alarm fire at one of their hospitals. Multiple agencies of Districts 2, 3, and 4 were on site as part of the run cards or special called. The entire region, especially the area surrounding Brockton, were essentially stripped. D14B Structural Task Force was requested to respond to the City to provide regional coverage. Shortly after STF 14B arrived in Brockton the Statewide Coordinator requested an EMS TF to respond as well. Because TF 14B is the same group of communities, EMS TF 14 C was activated to fulfill this request.

On March 15, 2023 the Town of Concord Fire Dept. responded to a significant Carbon Monoxide situation at an assisted living facility. D14 EMS Strike Team 14C was called in as part of the D14 Intra-District response to assist Concord Fire.

Friday April 14, 2023 was an exceptionally busy day for departments in D14. Northborough Fire was dispatched to a brush fire at Mt. Pisgah conservation area. Within moments of arrival the Incident Commander had requested two D14 Forestry Strike Teams as well as multiple regional and State mutual aid. D14 ST B and C were sent to work deep inside the woods. As this was going on Shrewsbury had a 3rd alarm structure fire and Southboro and Westborough worked a significant brush fire. With a significant amount of D14 assets committed, the Fire Mob. Plan was activated to bring in an EMS TF from D4 to backfill the region. Fire Mob. was also activated for the fire. Districts 6 and 7 were called in to provide assistance fighting the fire. During the planning meeting later that evening, it was determined that two TF's were to be brought in. Due to multiple fires in the State some adjustments were made to the response. On Saturday the 15th, Fire Mob. Forestry Task Forces from D4 and 6 were brought in. D4 and 6 went to work each assigned a Division. After several hours of work it was determined that more crews were needed to assist with rotation of crews. D14 Strike Team 14B was activated. With efforts of D14 Strike Teams and mutual aid partners of the Fire Mobilization Plan, the fire was contained after two days of work.

The training, policies/procedures, and professionalism of D14 Fire Departments are testaments to the successful outcomes of these responses. The D14 Chiefs who provided work directly at scenes, or indirectly by covering the District, are what makes these plans so effective. Special thanks must be given to D14 Control at Ashland Fire for coordinating all these responses as well as the Communications Unit Car 14 for their work on scene.

Respectfully submitted,

Asst. Chief Timothy E. Choate

Fire Mobilization/Strike Team Chair