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Crews in 4 communities battle brush fires

Dry conditions prompt warnings

By **Matt Rocheleau** | GLOBE CORRESPONDENT APRIL 09, 2012

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Firefighters battled brush fires in four communities in the eastern and central parts of the state Sunday, and at least one of the blazes burned on into the night.

In a section of the Lynn Woods Reservation that officials said is inaccessible to firefighters, 10 to 12 acres of forest had burned by Sunday evening, said James McDonald, district chief at the Lynn Fire Department.

Officials said the fire, which was not near people or property, began that morning and was expected to continue to burn in the forest along the Lynn-Saugus line through at least early Monday morning.

McDonald said officials believe the fire was sparked by natural causes.



In Milford, about 4 acres of forest burned about a half-mile from Haven Street, town fire Lieutenant Frank Ferrante said.

In Pembroke, another afternoon fire burned about 3 acres of forest near Mattakesett Street, town fire Captain Kenneth McCormick said.

Firefighters extinguished those two fires after several hours. The causes had not been determined.

In Worcester, a brush fire was reported on Sunday evening, Deputy Chief Geoffrey Gardell said. The fire was brought under control after it burned 3 to 5 acres of woods off Grafton Street, the Worcester Telegram & Gazette reported.

No injuries or property damage were reported in any of the four fires.

In recent weeks, brush fires have been reported in several Massachusetts communities. In Brimfield, 52 acres burned last week.

“It’s a pretty widespread situation,” said State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan. “What we have here is an early spring fire season.”

The recent dry weather has intensified the threat of fire, and the string of damaging storms over the past year has added brush that may help fuel blazes in undeveloped areas.


In Brimfield State Forest, crews are clearing debris left from last summer’s tornadoes, said S.J. Port, a Department of Conservation and Recreation spokeswoman. Crews plan to widen some existing forest paths by about 90 feet to create fire breaks, she said.


The National Weather Service announced a red flag warning for Monday for all of Eastern and Central Massachusetts, indicating a heightened potential for fires.

Southern New England communities have seen an above-average number of such warnings this spring, said Eleanor Vallier-Talbot, a meteorologist for the service.

No significant precipitation is expected for at least the next week.

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