Large Wildfires in the East

George Baker, Fire Chief (Ret)
The 2010 Wildland-Urban Interface of the Conterminous United States
Marlow-Stoddard fire, NH 1941

- Marlow-Stoddard fire that occurred in April, 1941. Depending on which account you read, it burned anywhere from 24,000-27,000 acres and destroyed many homes, and was largely a result of the slash left from the New England Hurricane of 1938. It also burned over our Pitcher Mountain fire tower. There is actually a documentary made about the fire called “Four Days of Fury”. Foresters in the area have commented on how you can still see the footprint of the fire on aerial images from the difference in forest structure.
Cape Cod Mass 1946

- https://youtu.be/CQgFzdfpHjs
The Great Fires of 1947 Maine

A series of forest fires in the State of Maine in the United States that destroyed a total area of 17,188 acres (6,956 ha) of wooded land on Mount Desert Island and 200,000 acres (81,000 ha) state wide. This disaster is an important part of the local history of the York County and Mount Desert Island areas.

Caused Formation of the Northeast Forest Fire Protection Compact
The mandate of the Northeastern Forest Fire Protection Commission (NFFPC) is to provide the means for its member states and provinces to cope with fires that might be beyond the capabilities of a single member through information, technology and resource sharing (mutual aid) activities.

Participating members:

- Provide resource sharing (mutual aid) among members and establish procedures to facilitate this aid. The sharing of resources may include fire crews, fire management (overhead) staff, fire equipment and fire aircraft;
- Provide fire related information and technology sharing among members;
- Support the development of integrated forest fire plans and the maintenance of appropriate forest fire fighting services by its members; and
- Maintain a central agency (the Compact) to coordinate the services needed by member states and provinces.
On Friday, October 17, 1947, the fire department received a call reporting smoke rising from a cranberry bog. No one knows what started the fire, but once ignited, the fire smoldered underground eventually creating an inferno that burned nearly half the eastern side of Mount Desert Island and made international news.
The Sunken Stream fire in Edmunds Township that scorched more than 1,000 acres of forestland was one of "well over 50" fires set in Washington County this spring, according to Roger Milligan, Regional Ranger. The fire, the largest in eight years, began April 30 and burned 1,086 acres of woods on Champion International Paper Co. and Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge land. Hot spots within the fire zone flared up as recently as two weeks ago; the blaze was completely extinguished early last week. Forest rangers have joined the Washington County sheriff's department and state police in investigating the fire, which was set in a clearcut area that had been replanted by the paper company at substantial investment. Seedlings have been ordered from the Maine Forest Nursery to replant Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge and Champion International lands.
Sunrise Fire, Long Island Pine Barrens
August 1995
Pine Barren Habitat
May 18 worst in Florida's history leaped highways today and menaced populated areas on the north-central Atlantic coast of the peninsula.

About 150 firefighters using National Guard bulldozers attempted to block a wall of flames threatening residences in the town of Palm Coast in Flagler County. New fires were reported in all parts of the state today after 109 outbreaks on Friday, and hundreds of people were evacuated from their homes.
Palm Coast Fire
Lateral West Fire on Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, 2011
On August 4, 2011, a pilot flying back from a wildfire in North Carolina spotted smoke in Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. That smoke was from the Lateral West Fire, which had probably started from a lightning strike the previous week. In record dry conditions, the fire, fueled by dead and down material and grass and brush that had grown in the wake of the 2008 South One Fire, quickly spread through the old fire scar and beyond. It burned over 6,300 acres, including a couple hundred acres in the adjacent Dismal Swamp State Park.

On August 27, Hurricane Irene dumped over a foot of rain on the fire for an estimated 1.7 billion gallons of water over the fire's footprint. That, however, was not enough to completely extinguish the fire which like the South One Fire, burned deep into peat soils.
Great Dismal Swamp NWR
Lateral Fire
Mud Lake Complex Update 6.10.15

Incident: Mud Lake Complex Wildfire
Released: 6/10/2015

Mud Lake Complex

Type 3 Incident Management Team

Wednesday June 10, 2015 9 AM

Fire Information Office, 239-695-0881

Mudlakecomplex@gmail.com

Hours of Operation: 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Current Status: The Mud Lake Complex is comprised of 15 wildfires caused by lightning strikes in the Big Cypress National Preserve located in Southwest Florida, near Naples. (During the complex, 5 smaller fires were absorbed by larger fires. The larger fire names are used to describe all combined fires. See table below for more information). The acreage burned remains steady at 35,321 acres, with containment at 90%. Ground and air resources from the Mud Lake Complex are being used to continue burn-out and mop-up of fires outside of the Mud Lake Complex. Crews will assess a possible burn-out operation on the south end of Windmill Tram Fire. The Windmill Tram, Baxter, and Wilson Cypress Fires are reported at 157, 106, and 46 acres respectively.
The Mud Lake Wildfire Complex, thirty miles east of Naples, Florida in Big Cypress National Preserve is approximately 2,077 acres and remains 15% contained at this time. The Mud Lake wildfires started naturally by lightning as storms passed through the local area this weekend.

Updates and maps related to the fire complex activities are posted at - http://www.nps.gov/bicy/planyourvisit/2015-mud-lake.htm
Thank you