

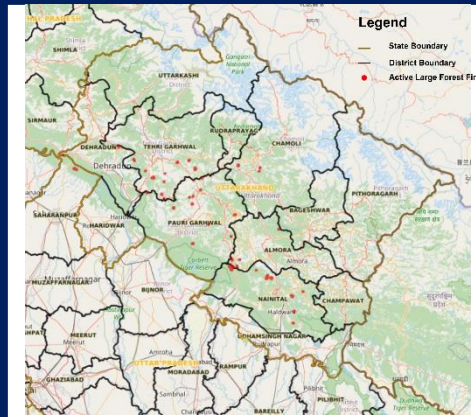


SITUATION REPORT-1

Forest Fires in Uttarakhand

Date: 07th May 2024 (Tue)

Time: 10:00 AM (IST)



Map: Active Forest Fire
(As of May 07, 2024, Van Agni Geopotal, FSI)

SITUATION UPDATE AND RESPONSE

Overview:

Uttarakhand has been battling severe forest fires for the past six months, resulting in tragic loss of lives and extensive damage to forest land. In the latest incidence of the fires, five lives have been lost, including a woman who sustained burn injuries while trying to save her farm in Pauri tehsil. Chief Minister has imposed a ban on burning fodder and solid waste to mitigate the situation. Since November 1, 2023, approximately 1,145 hectares of forests have been destroyed in 910 forest fire incidents.

On 06th May, Monday, the state witnessed 20 fresh fire incidents, ravaging some 52 hectares of forest land, with Garhwal, particularly Pauri district, bearing the brunt.



Statistical Overview



Severely affected Forest Land: Garhwal, particularly Pauri district.



No. of Deaths – 05



Total No. of Forest Fires – 910



Total Forest Area Affected – 1,145 hectares



Forest Destroyed – 1145 hect. (since Nov 1, 2023)



Fire crew stations established – 1438

SITUATION UPDATE

- Two women and three laborers lost their lives due to the fires.
- Residents, including children and the elderly, are experiencing health issues due to the smoke, prompting advisories to use masks.
- The Meteorological Center in Dehradun has forecasted the possibility of rain from May 7-8, potentially intensifying on May 11 which may help in dousing the fires.
- The fire reached the state sports department's Indoor Stadium in Pauri, damaging a building and documents, although students and staff remained unharmed.
- The forest department reported 24 forest fire occurrences in the past 24 hours, damaging 23.75 hectares of forest area.



GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE

1. Uttarakhand Chief Minister instructed the Chief Secretary to immediately issue instructions to the District Magistrates to continuously monitor forest fires every day for a week.
2. District Magistrates have been directed to ban all types of fodder burning and solid waste burning around forests.
3. Indian Air Force dispatched MI-17 V5 choppers to aid firefighting efforts in Pauri Garhwal's Dob village, dropping 14,600 liters of water.
4. 1,438 Fire crew stations have been established and 3,983 Fire Watchers have been deputed in the state.
5. Flight arrivals at Pithoragarh's Naini-Saini airport were halted due to limited visibility caused by the smoke.
6. NDRF personnel are engaged in firefighting operations in Nainital district.
7. Four individuals were booked under the Indian Forest Act for lighting fires in Pithoragarh district.

Useful Links:

- Forest Department – Uttarakhand (<https://forest.uk.gov.in/>)
- 'Van Agni' Geoportal, Forest Survey of India (https://vanagniportal.fsiforestfire.gov.in/fsi_fire/fire.html)
- State's Meteorological Center – Dehradun (<https://mausam.imd.gov.in/dehradun/>)
- Indian Air Force (IAF) (<https://indianairforce.nic.in/#>)



IAF Choppers sprinkling water on forest fire | Source: Media

Key Contacts:



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Uttarakhand – IAG

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Uttarakhand Govt. Helpline

1800 180 4141 – Forest Fire Helpline
7668304788 – State Control Room/IT Room



Source of Information

Media, Social Media, Sphere India
WhatsApp Group



Source: Twitter



Source: Media



Source: Media

Disclaimer:

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