

Ocean Twp Wildfires

By: Jacob A. Kallman, Isabella Garrison, Sekou Diabate, Anthony M. Cristello



THIRA: Threat Identification & Hazards

Main Risks:

- Structural Exposures
 - Houses
 - Cars
 - Commercial Buildings
 - Wawa
 - Millers
 - Residence Inn
 - Chick-Fil-A
 - Etc.
 - Township Buildings
 - OT Library
 - OT Historic Museum

Structural Exposures (Cont):

- Education Facilities:
 - OT High School
 - OT Middle School



THRIA STEP 2: Estimate Impacts

Structure Fires	50+
Peoples Displaced	350+
People Requiring Medical Care	15+
Acres Burned	50+
Total Damage Cost	\$500,000+

Note: The figures provided are approximations and represent potential scenarios influenced by the unpredictable nature of wildfires, including variations in wind and weather conditions.



Ocean Township Fire District #1 (Oakhurst)

Fire Department	Emergency Medical Services	Department of Public Works	Police Department
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Oakhurst Fire Dist #1● Wanamassa Fire Dist #2● NJFFS Division B● Tinton Falls Fire District #1● Wayside Fire District #2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Monmouth County Sheriff's Office Medstar● Coordinated by Director of Operations: Timothy Sidley	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 5 Garbage/Recycling Trucks● 5 Dump Trucks● 4 Snow Plows● 5 Front End Loaders● 3 Backhoe Loaders● 8 Utility Pickup Trucks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Ocean Township Police Department● Chief: Michael Sorrentino● Captain: Gregory Schenck● Operations Commander: Gregory Schenck

Oakhurst Fire Department

Ranks:

Chief: Tom Caruso

1st Asst Chief: Chris Sorrentino

2nd Asst Chief: Josh Shamosh

Captain: Pat Mannion

1st Lieutenant: John Morrow

2nd Lieutenant: Daniel Cohen

District Fire Marshal: Craig Flannigan
Sr.

Apparatus:

Station 1:

- 1-72: 2022 Ferrara Cinder Engine
- 1-91: 2015 Sutphen Quint
- 1-75: 1990 Mack CF Engine
- 1-88: 2024 F-250 Utility/Aux Vehicle

Station 2:

- 1-78: 2006 American LaFrance Engine
- 1-90: 1973 Mack CF 75 ft Tower

Mutual Aid

Wanamassa Station 37-2:

- Engine & Ladder

Wayside 36-2 & Tinton Falls 36-1:

- Wayside: Engine & Rescue
- Tinton Falls: Forestry Fire Apparatus

Monmouth County OEM:

- County Coordinators
 - Structural Taskforce
 - MedStar Triage

Local Utility Resources:

- Jersey Central Power & Lighting (JCP&L)
- American Water Co.
- New Jersey Natural Gas (NJNG)

NJFFS Division B:

- Ford:
 - Wildland Tankers
 - Brush Apparatus
 - Cover Apparatus
- Ram :
 - Wildland/Brush Apparatus
- John Deere:
 - Bulldozers
- International:
 - 4x4 Pumpers
 - 4x4 Tankers

History of Ocean Township

The history of Ocean Township, NJ, dates back to 1609, when Henry Hudson, under Dutch employment, anchored at Barnegat Inlet and described the region as "pleasant land." The area saw early development from settlements like Waretown, named after Abraham Waier, a mill owner and a member of the Rogerines, a religious group expelled from Connecticut in 1739. Waretown's name evolved over time, reflecting its growth and changes in the community.

Waretown is home to historic cemeteries, such as Cedar Grove and the Old Presbyterian Graveyard, which hold graves of early settlers, mariners, and war casualties. An earlier graveyard, where Abraham Waier was buried, no longer exists. His gravestone was infamously repurposed as a boat mooring in the 1950s.

The Revolutionary War heavily impacted the area. British ships patrolled Barnegat Inlet, disrupting local industries like lumber shipping and salt production, vital for food preservation and gunpowder. Privateers and Patriots, such as the Soper family, often clashed with Loyalist leaders like John Bacon and Davenport, who led destructive raids and attacks.

During the War of 1812, the coast was blockaded by British forces, including Commodore Hardy on the flagship *Ramillies*. Local privateers continued risky trade efforts, and many captains and ships, including those from the Birdsall and Soper families, were captured or destroyed.

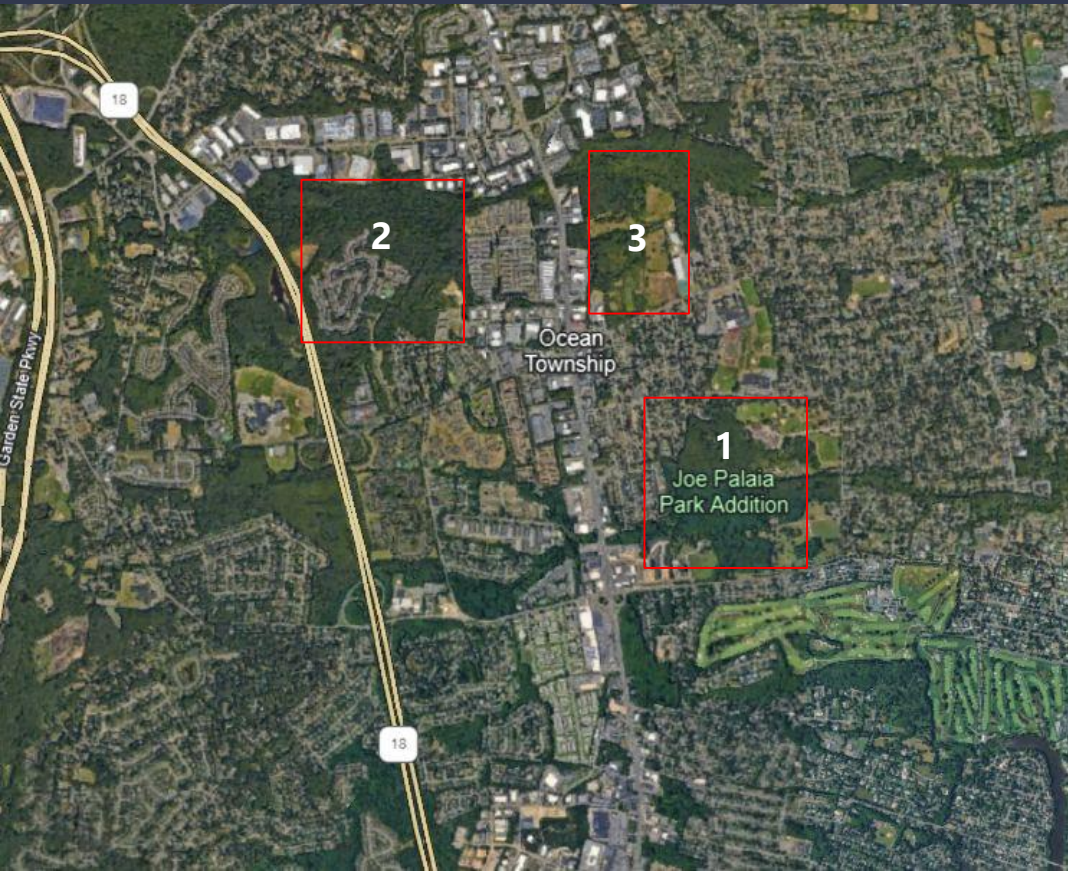
Ocean Township's history reflects resilience and its strategic importance during early American conflicts, with stories of bravery and survival woven into its development.

Previous Structure Fires (10 Years)

- 2015:
 - Multi-Alarm Brighton Ave (Long Branch)
 - Twinbrook Apartments
 - Posillipo Restaurant
 - 4th Alarm Apollo Street
 - Continental Garden Apartment
- 2016:
 - Hartshorne Road
 - Wayside
- 2017:
 - Fox CHase Mutual Aid Assistance (Tinton Falls/Wayside)
- 2019:
 - Mutual Aid Queen Avenue (West Long Branch)
 - Mutual Aid (Wanamassa)
- 2020:
 - Continental Garden Apartment
 - Enclave Way Box Alarm
- 2021:
 - Mutual Aid Sunset & Walnut St (Wanamassa)
 - Pinecrest Road Structure Fire
- 2022:
 - Carole Drive Basement Fire
 - Mutual Aid Residential Fire (Allenhurst)
 - Commercial Fire Cindy Lane
 - Marisa Ct
- 2023:
 - Mutual Aid Residential Fire (Tinton Falls)
 - Mutual Aid Residential Fire (West Long Branch)
- 2024:
 - Fulton Avenue
 - Middlebrook Apartments Multi Alarm (Wanamassa)



Wildfire Imagery



Areas of Concern for a Wildfire in Ocean Twp:
The most concerning areas for a wildfire within District #1 (Oakhurst) are presented on the map to the right.

1. Joe Palaia Park Addition (208 Acres of Brush)
2. Whale Pond Brook Reserve (57 Acres of Brush)
3. Weltz Conservation Area (44 Acres of Brush)

Citation:

Ocean, T. of. (2000, January 19). *Township of Ocean - Parks & Recreation Information*.
Oceantwp.org; Ocean Township Archives.
<https://www.oceantwp.org>

SPR Process

New Jersey Forest Fire Service Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant:

- Eligible fire departments or communities can request between \$5,000 and \$20,000 for this grant. Applicants must be registered on NJSTART and have a Vendor ID Number and registered UEI number.

References

- Ocean, T. of. (2000, January 19). *Township of Ocean - Parks & Recreation Information*. Oceanwp.org; Ocean Township Archives. <https://www.oceanwp.org>
- Parks Systems, M. C. (2000, January 1). Monmouth County Park System. [Www.monmouthcountyparks.com](http://www.monmouthcountyparks.com); The Friends of Monmouth County Parks. <https://www.monmouthcountyparks.com/>
- Fire District #1, T. of O., & Fire Commissioners, F. D. #1. (2022). Township of Ocean Fire District #1. Township of Ocean Fire District #1; Township of Ocean. <https://www.tofd1.org/>
- Blash, G., Caruso, T., Crochet, T., Kirk, R., Muscillo, M., & Sorrentino, M. (2019, June 18). Township of Ocean: Monmouth County HMP Mitigation Action Plan. Monmouth County Sheriff's Office HMP Reports – 2020; Monmouth County Sheriff's Office. https://www.mcsonj.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Ocean_Township-HMP-2020.pdf