



MASSACHUSETTS

Department of Conservation & Recreation
Bureau of Forest Fire Control and Forestry



WILDLAND FIRE TRAINING ANNOUNCEMENT

National Guard and DCR Helicopter Awareness for Chief Fire Department Officers

DATES: September 23, 2026 **TIME:** 13:00 – 15:00

LOCATION: Army Aviation Support Facility #2
Barnes Air National Guard Base
815 Southamptton RD, Westfield, MA

DELIVERY: Classroom / Lecture Presentations

The Massachusetts DCR Bureau of Forest Fire Control is partnering with Massachusetts Army National Guard, to deliver a two-hour helicopter awareness workshop for Western Massachusetts local fire department Chiefs and Officers. State agency and National Guard staff will discuss use of helicopters on wildland fires with emphasis on requesting process, responsibilities of the IC, basic tactics and strategies, and risk management around rotary wing aviation resources on fire operations.

REQUIRED PREREQUISITE TRAINING: None

Course Description:

Target Audience: Local Fire Chief's and Fire Department Officers

Agenda Topics:

- Massachusetts process for requesting a helicopter for wildfire response support
- Responsibilities of the Incident Commander and Command / General Staff
- LZ and Dip Site criteria
- Basic wildland fire strategies, tactics and terminology, communications, air to ground coordination.
- Hazards, Safety, and overall Risk Management strategies around Rotary Wing Aviation on fire operations

COURSE REGISTRATION LINK: [Registration for Helicopter Awareness Training Session 9/23/26](#)

- IMPORTANT:**
- ☐ Register for the Training Using the link provided above.
 - ☐ Class size limited to 40
 - ☐ Priority given to Western Mass Fire Chief Officers.

Links for helpful supporting reference tools.

[Helicopter Capabilities and Limitations \(NWCG\)](#) Video 11 Mins

[Communicating with Helicopters \(NWCG\)](#) Video 7 Mins

[NWCG Incident Response Pocket Guide, PMS 461](#) PDF

COURSE COORDINATOR:

Greg Whittier
DCR District Fire Warden
Dist. 11, Hampden County
gregory.whittier@mass.gov
Cell: 508-400-6230