

Hinge Lake Fire 2005 Summer (as reported by Ralph Boston on Aug 17)

On August 8, smoke was seen above the tree line on the southeast shore of Buck Lake. An alert resident gave the Township Fire Department a compass bearing from his residence to the smoke. Later another person gave a sight line from his house to a landmark on the southeast shore of Buck Lake. This pin pointed the location of the fire on the south shore of Hinge Lake which is located about 200 to 300 meters east of the Buck Lake shoreline about due east of Burnt Point

Firefighters used pick-up trucks and ATV's with trailers to bring boats, pumps and other equipment to Hinge Lake. Two days later the fire and residual hot spots were controlled.

The source of the fire appears to have been a lightning strike on the south shore of Hinge Lake. It had probably occurred 10 days earlier. The fire likely burned down into the ground in a rocky area. Days later warm weather and strong winds fanned the embers into a blaze. Fortunately, the south winds blew the fire back onto itself. But as winds calmed, the fire flared up again and again until the firefighters arrived.

A crew of some 10 men fought the fire for 10 days. The tabulation of man-hours and dollar cost expended was not available at press time. Some 20-25 acres of woodlands were burned. It could have been much worse.

What have we learned from this event? Fortunately forest fires in our community are a low probability. There has been no major forest fire in the Buck Lake area for 70-100 years. Potentially a forest fire is a calamity to be most feared by Buck Lake residents. With warmer, drier summers we are overdue for a major forest fire.

What can you do to mitigate this risk? If anyone sees signs of a fire report it! This is especially important during periods of Level 1, no fire burn periods. Report any signs, smoke, flames, fire glow (at night) to the Township.

FIRE DEPARTMENT EMERGENCY NUMBERS ARE:

BEDFORD----- 541-0212

PORTLAND----- 911

LOUGBOROUGH--- 911

STORINGTON -----911 & 353-2400

**FIRE UPDATE: AS OF TODAY, AUG 18: THE FIRE HAS
FLARED UP AGAIN. WE WILL KEEP YOU POSTED.**