

Forest Fires On Long Island Under Control

Heavy Rain Aids Firemen After Flames Menace Camp of Boy Scouts

Thousands of volunteer fire fighters, aided by the overnight rain, brought under control early today the forest fires which for several days have raged through thousands of acres of woodland in Long Island and New Jersey, threatening towns and villages, summer homes and camps.

The worst of the dozen fires which burned on two 20-mile fronts in Suffolk County was halted after it had menaced Camp Wauwepex, the Nassau County Boy Scout camp near Wading River, but only after it had destroyed 12 drill platforms and tent floors.

Eight hundred firemen, CCC workers from Camp Upton and State Park Department employes turned the trick by building backfires, hewing out fire breaks, digging trenches and stringing hose lines for a quarter mile last night. By the time it was brought under control, the fire had burned over about 400 acres of the 600-acre tract comprising the camp site. The camp was unoccupied.

Three Towns Send Help

As the flames swept within 25 feet of some of the camp buildings firemen were summoned from Hempstead, Freeport and Rockville Centre. Soon they were reinforced by CCC boys and men from the Wildwood State Park.

The fire was first discovered at Calverton early yesterday when Clarence Dare, district forest ranger for Suffolk County, was notified that it was nearing Wading River. Huge clouds of smoke billowed into the sky and, according to later reports, could be observed 30 miles away. The river, however, protected the town.

State Conservation Department officials in Albany said 38 fires had been reported in the last two days, most of them in Long Island.

5,000 Acres Swept

Clarence Dare, district forest ranger of Selden, L. I., said he had not yet received a complete report of the damage on Long Island. He said that in all there had been about 100 fires and that in so far as he was able to judge the aggregate timber and shrubbery either destroyed or badly damaged would be about 5,000 acres. The fires, he said, had been brought under control at 8 o'clock last night.

The heavy thunder shower last night insured safety from further outbreaks for about 24 hours.