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## Press Release



### For Immediate Release

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### **Governor Hassan, Emergency Management and Public Safety Officials Supporting Local Officials in Response to Brush Fire in Stoddard**

*State Emergency Operations Center Activated, Mutual Aid Dispatched and Shelter Opened for Displaced Residents*

CONCORD – Governor Maggie Hassan and state emergency management and public safety officials have activated the State Emergency Operations Center to support local officials' efforts to protect public safety in response to the ongoing brush fire in Stoddard. The New Hampshire National Guard has provided a helicopter and the New Hampshire Division of Forest and Lands has been working to support local officials on the ground. In addition, various local departments are providing support to Stoddard through the town's mutual aid compacts, and the Red Cross has opened a shelter in Keene to support displaced residents.

"As the brush fire in Stoddard has spread today, state emergency management and public safety officials and the Division of Forest and Lands have been working with local officials, and we have activated the State Emergency Operations Center to support local officials in the ongoing response efforts," Governor Hassan said. "Mutual aid has been dispatched and numerous local departments are on the scene working to protect public safety and contain the spread of the fire. The New Hampshire National Guard is providing a helicopter to support efforts on the ground, and emergency management and public safety officials will continue working throughout the night to protect citizens and property. In the meantime, the Red Cross has opened a shelter in Keene to support displaced residents."

The Red Cross shelter is located at the Keene Recreational Center at 312 Washington Street and will remain open indefinitely. Witnesses with potential information to report are encouraged to call the state's arson hotline at (800) 400-3526.

"As with any emergency, I encourage Granite Staters to exercise the common sense that we are known for, listen to emergency personnel and take necessary precautions if you live in the affected area, and if you see something, say something and report it to public safety officials," Governor Hassan said.

Governor Hassan is planning to visit Stoddard tomorrow morning. Additional details are forthcoming.

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