

Report of Forest Fire Warden and State Forest Ranger

Your local Forest Fire Warden, Fire Department, and the State of New Hampshire Division of Forests & Lands work collaboratively to reduce the risk and frequency of wildland fires in New Hampshire. To help us assist you, please contact your local Forest Fire Warden or Fire Department to determine if a permit is required before doing ANY outside burning. Under State law (RSA 227-L:17) a fire permit is required for all outside burning unless the ground is completely covered with snow. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services also prohibits the open burning of household waste. Citizens are encouraged to contact the local fire department or DES at 1-800-498-6868 or www.des.state.nh.us for more information. Safe open burning requires diligence and responsibility. Help us to protect New Hampshire's forest resources. For more information please contact the Division of Forests & Lands at (603) 271-2214, or online at www.nhdfl.org.

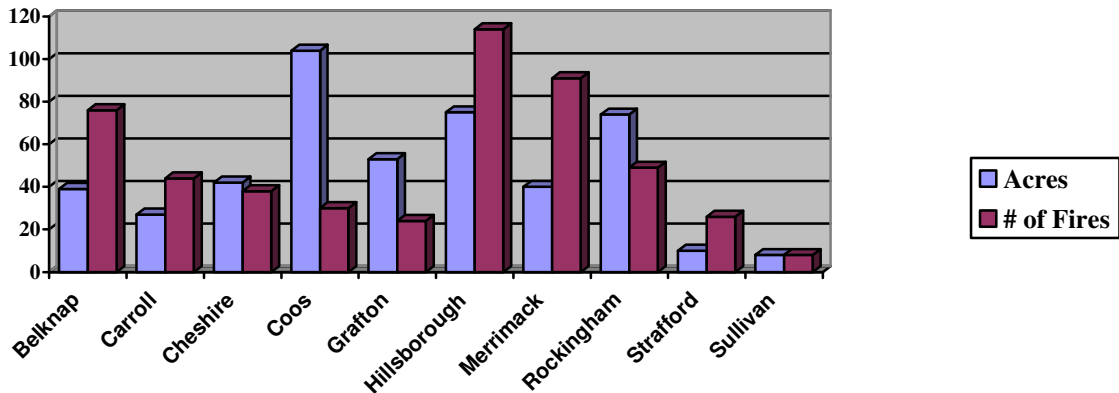
Fire activity was very high during the first several weeks of the 2006 fire season, with red-flag conditions issued by the National Weather Service and extreme fire danger in many sections of the state. The largest forest fire during this period occurred in late April and burned 98 acres. The extremely dry conditions in spring resulted in over twice the amount of acreage burned than in all of 2005. Our statewide system of fire lookout towers is credited with keeping most fires small and saving several structures this season due to their quick and accurate spotting capabilities. Fires in the wildland urban interface damaged 6 structures, a constant reminder that forest fires burn more than just trees. Homeowners should take measures to prevent a wildland fire from spreading to their home. Precautions include keeping your roof and gutters clear of leaves and pine needles, and maintaining adequate green space around your home free of flammable materials. Additional information and homeowner recommendations are available at www.firewise.org. Please help Smokey Bear, your local fire department and the state's Forest Rangers by being fire wise and fire safe!

2006 FIRE STATISTICS

(All fires reported as of November 8, 2006)

(figures do not include fires on the White Mountain National Forest)

COUNTY STATISTICS		
County	Acres	# of Fires
Belknap	39	76
Carroll	27	44
Cheshire	42	38
Coos	104	30
Grafton	53	24
Hillsborough	75	114
Merrimack	40	91
Rockingham	74	49
Strafford	10	26
Sullivan	8	8



CAUSES OF FIRES REPORTED

		<u>Total Fires</u>	<u>Total Acres</u>
Arson	15	2006	500
Campfire	24	2005	473
Children	13	2004	174
Smoking	50	2003	147
Debris	284		100
Railroad	3		
Equipment	4		
Lightning	1		
Misc.*	106 (*Misc.: power lines, fireworks, electric fences, etc.)		

ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT WILDLAND FIRE