

## Forest Fire Warden and State Forest Ranger Report

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](http://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](http://www.nhdfl.org).

Spring fire season was unusually short this past year, with wet weather beginning the third week in April and lasting virtually all summer long. Consequently both the number of fires and the number of acres burned were below the last five year average. Due to state budget constraints, the staffing of our statewide system of 16 fire lookout towers was limited to class III or higher fire danger days. Despite the reduction in the number of days staffed, our fire lookout towers are credited with keeping most fires small and saving several structures this season due to their quick and accurate spotting capabilities. The towers fire spotting capability was supplemented this year by contracted aircraft and the Civil Air Patrol when fire danger was especially high. Surprisingly the largest single fire this year occurred in late November during an unusual dry spell, in the northern Coos County town of Clarksville. This fire burned 17.1 acres and is presumed to have been caused by a careless hunter. Many homes in New Hampshire are located in the wildland urban interface, which is the area where homes and flammable wildland fuels intermix. Several of the fires during the 2009 season threatened 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](http://www.firewise.org). Please help Smokey Bear, your local fire department and the state's Forest Rangers by being fire wise and fire safe!

### 2009 FIRE STATISTICS

(All fires reported as of December 3, 2009)

(figures do not include fires under the jurisdiction of the White Mountain National Forest)

<b>COUNTY STATISTICS</b>		
<b>County</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b># of Fires</b>
<b>Belknap</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Carroll</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Cheshire</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Coos</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Grafton</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Hillsborough</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>Merrimack</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Rockingham</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Strafford</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Sullivan</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>10</b>

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#### CAUSES OF FIRES REPORTED

Arson	4
Debris	184
Campfire	18
Children	12
Smoking	15
Railroad	5
Equipment	5
Lightning	0
Misc.*	91

#### Total Fires Total Acres

<b>2009</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>173</b>
<b>2008</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>175</b>
<b>2007</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>2006</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>473</b>
<b>2005</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>174</b>

(\*Misc.: power lines, fireworks, electric fences, etc.)