

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 603-271-1370 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.nhdf.org.

Due to a record warm winter and little snow, our first fire occurred on February 4th with several more early fires to follow. Normally a large percentage of the warm windy days with low humidity occur when the ground is saturated from a long snow covered winter. By the time the surface fuels and ground dry out enough to burn, we only have a few weeks until "green up". This year however we had an extended period of these favorable spring fire conditions. Our largest fire in the state was 86 acres. The average size fire was .6 acres. Extensive summer rains kept total acreage burned to near normal levels

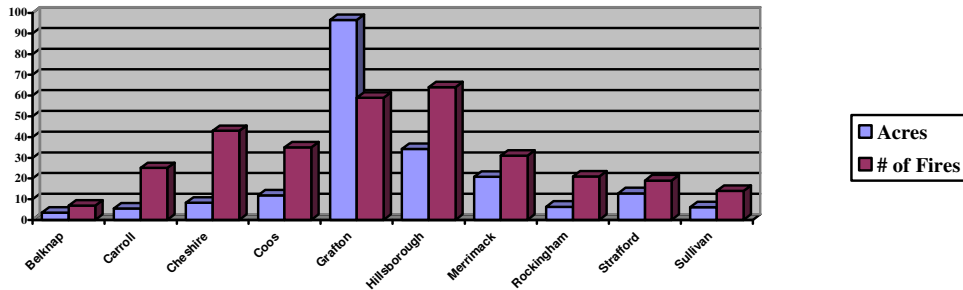
As has been the case over the last few years, state budget constraints have limited the staffing of our statewide system of 16 fire lookout towers to Class III or higher fire danger days. Despite the reduction in the number of days staffed, our fire lookouts are credited with keeping most fires small and saving several structures due to their quick and accurate spotting capabilities. The towers fire spotting was supplemented by the NH Civil Air Patrol when the fire danger was especially high. Several of the fires during the 2012 season threatened structures, a constant reminder that forest fires burn more than just trees. Please help Smokey Bear, your local fire department, and the state's Forest Rangers by being fire wise and fire safe!

2012 FIRE STATISTICS

(All fires reported as of October 2012)

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

COUNTY STATISTICS		
County	Acres	# of Fires
Belknap	3.6	7
Carroll	5.5	25
Cheshire	8.3	43
Coos	11.8	35
Grafton	96.5	59
Hillsborough	34.2	64
Merrimack	20.8	31
Rockingham	6.4	21
Strafford	12.9	19
Sullivan	6	14



CAUSES OF FIRES REPORTED

		Total	Fires	Total Acres
Arson	14	2012	318	206
Debris	105	2011	125	42
Campfire	14	2010	360	145
Children	15	2009	334	173
Smoking	17	2008	455	175
Railroad	0			
Equipment	6			
Lightning	7			
Misc.*	140 (*Misc.: power lines, fireworks, electric fences, etc.)			

ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT WILDLAND FIRE