

## REPORT OF THE 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 ANY outside burning. 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 Forest & Lands at (603) 271-2217, or online at [www.nhdfl.org](http://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 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 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.

### NH FIRE STATISTICS

<u>CAUSES OF FIRES REPORTED-2006</u>			<u>TOTAL FIRES</u>	<u>TOTAL ACRES</u>
Arson	15	<b>2006</b>	500	473
Campfire	24	<b>2005</b>	546	174
Children	13	<b>2004</b>	482	147
Smoking	50	<b>2003</b>	374	100
Debris	284			
Railroad	3			
Equipment	4			
Lightning	1			
Misc*	106			

**ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT WILDLAND FIRE**