

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 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) 271-2214, or online at www.nhdf.org.

Fire activity was very high during the spring of 2007 fire season, particularly in late April and early May. As the forests and fields greened up in late May the fire danger decreased. However, a very dry late summer created very high fire danger again from August into September with the fire danger reaching very high on Labor Day weekend. Even with the dry conditions the acreage burned was less than half that of 2006. The largest forest fire during the 2007 season burned approximately 26 acres on the side of Wantastiquet Mountain in Chesterfield during the month of May. 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. Several of the fires during the 2007 season threatened 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. 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-2007</u>		<u>TOTAL FIRES</u>	<u>TOTAL ACRES</u>
Arson	5	2007 437	212
Campfire	38	2006 500	473
Children	22	2005 546	174
Smoking	41	2004 482	247
Debris	197	2003 374	100
Railroad	5		
Equipment	3		
Lightning	7		
Misc*	119 (*Misc: power lines, fireworks, electric fences, etc.)		

ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT WILDLAND FIRE