

## **REPORT OF THE FOREST FIRE WARDEN AND STATE FOREST RANGER**

**Warden:** I would like to start this year's warden's report by thanking two retired wardens for their many years of service to the town and state. Peter Berry retired this spring after 35 years as warden and John Morse retired after 43 years as a deputy warden. Open burning in New Hampshire requires a permit from your local warden or one of the deputy wardens unless there is sufficient snow cover on the ground to prevent the spread of the fire. Rules for burning can be gotten from any one of the wardens or from the state web site [www.nhdf.org](http://www.nhdf.org) . Even if there is snow cover we require you to notify the Hanover Dispatch center before you start the fire.

Wardens and deputies:

Frank H. Currier:	469-3624	Dave Best:	469-3350
Lester Boucher:	469- 3256	Bruce Elder:	298-0408
Dave Hollinger:	298-5815	Doug Plummer:	802-295-6367
Chris Berry:	675-2350	Doug Chapman:	469-3397
Bill Taylor:	469-3342	Peter Berry:	675 2293
Boone Rondeau:	675-6951		

**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](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.nhdf.org](http://www.nhdf.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).

**NH FIRE STATISTICS**

<b><u>CAUSES OF FIRES REPORTED-2009</u></b>		<b><u>TOTAL FIRES</u></b>		<b><u>TOTAL ACRES</u></b>
		<b>2009</b>	334	173
Arson	2	<b>2008</b>	455	175
Campfire	18	<b>2007</b>	437	212
Children	12	<b>2006</b>	500	473
Smoking	15	<b>2005</b>	546	174
Debris	184	<b>2004</b>	482	147
Railroad	5			
Equipment	5			
Misc*	91 (*Misc: power lines, fireworks, electric fences, etc.)			