

REPORT OF THE FOREST FIRE WARDEN AND STATE FOREST RANGER

Plainfield Warden: In 2010 we issued more than 100 local permits for outdoor burns, campfires, brush piles, etc. Our local fire departments responded to four illegal burns. Open burning is governed by state law and controlled by the Department of Forest and Lands. Wardens and deputy wardens do not have local discretion on permit issuance.

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 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 Forests & Lands at (603) 271-2214, or online at www.nhdf.org.

This past fire season had a slightly lower number of fires, as well as lower number of acres burned than the 5 year average. What made this fire season somewhat unusual was that it lasted most of the summer. New Hampshire typically has a fairly active spring fire season and then the summer rains tend to dampen fire activity later in the season. This year virtually all areas of the state had fires throughout the summer due to the periodic dry spells throughout the season. 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 contracted aircraft and the NH Civil Air Patrol when the fire danger was especially high. The largest fire for the season was 10.3 acre fire in Charlestown. 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-2010</u>		<u>TOTAL FIRES</u>	<u>TOTAL ACRES</u>
Lightning	04	2010 360	145
Equipment	18	2009 334	173
Arson	03	2008 455	175
Campfire	35	2007 437	212
Children	13	2006 500	473
Smoking	13	2005 546	174
Debris	146	2004 482	147
Misc*	128 (*Misc: power lines, fireworks, electric fences, etc.)		

Frank Currier Plainfield Fire Warden