

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

**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](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).

Both in terms of the number of fires, as well as the number of acres burned, this past fire season was the smallest since records have been kept. Extensive rainfall virtually all season long kept the fire danger down. When fires did start they were kept very small. The largest fire for the season was only 5.4 acres which occurred in Littleton on May 2nd 2011. There was however a small window of high fire danger in the northern third of the state during July when little rainfall was recorded. During this time there were a number of lightning started fires which are fairly unusual in New Hampshire. 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. 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 2011 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). 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-2011</u>		<u>TOTAL FIRES</u>		<u>TOTAL ACRES</u>
		<b>2011</b>	125	42
Lightning	03	<b>2010</b>	360	145
Equipment	01	<b>2009</b>	334	173
Arson	07	<b>2008</b>	455	175
Campfire	10	<b>2007</b>	437	212
Children	02			
Smoking	09			
Railroad	01			
Misc*	29 (*Misc: power lines, fireworks, electric fences, etc.)			

*Frank Currier* Plainfield Fire Warden