

FOREST FIRE WARDEN & 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.

This past fire season started in late March with the first reported fire on March 26, 2013. April, which is the traditional start to our spring fire season, started very dry with little measurable precipitation until the middle of the month. Approximately 70% of our reportable fires occurred Eighty one percent of our fires occurred on class 3 or 4 fire danger days. By mid May, extensive rains began which provided us with a very wet summer overall. We had a longer fall fire season due to drier than normal conditions following leaf fall. Fortunately most of these fires were small and quickly extinguished. The statewide system of 16 fire lookout towers continues to operate on Class III or higher fire danger days. 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 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. 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-2013</u>	<u>TOTAL FIRES</u>	<u>TOTAL ACRES</u>
	2013	182
	2012	318
	2011	125
	2010	360
	2009	334
	2008	455
Lightning	00	
Equipment	04	
Arson	01	
Campfire	12	
Children	01	
Smoking	10	
Railroad	00	
Misc*	85	(*Misc: power lines, fireworks, electric fences, etc.)

A wet spring and summer made for a quiet forest fire season with only four brush fire calls. Two involved permitted burns that were valid and did not require action; a third was a permitted burn that got out of control due to wind and the final one was an unpermitted burn that met the requirements for a permit and was therefore allowed to gain compliance without a penalty.

A permitted fire can only be kindled between the hours of 5:00 pm and 9:00am unless it is actively raining. There is no fee for a burn permit. A complete list of fire wardens who can issue permits may be found on the town's website.

Frank Currier Plainfield Fire Warden