

## **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 early April with the first reported fire on April 7th. April, which is the traditional start to our spring fire season, began very dry with unseasonably dry conditions continuing through the entire month. This dry pattern continued through the first half of May. 80% of our reported fires this season occurred during this six week period. The largest fire was 24 acres, occurring in the town of Tamworth. From mid May through early September, above average rainfall kept our total acreage burned statewide at 72 acres. This is the smallest amount of acreage burned statewide in several years. Late August through late September though brought a dry trend to northern areas, resulting in several deep-burning remote fires. Our fire danger days correlated well with the days that there were fires actually reported. 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 capability was supplemented by the NH Civil Air Patrol when the fire danger was especially high. For more information visit [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**

<b><u>CAUSES OF FIRES REPORTED-2014</u></b>		<b><u>TOTAL FIRES</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL ACRES</u></b>	
Lightning	01	<b>2014</b>	112	72
Equipment	05	<b>2013</b>	182	144
Arson	02	<b>2012</b>	318	206
Misc*	35	<b>2011</b>	125	42
		<b>2010</b>	360	145
		<b>2009</b>	334	173
		<b>2008</b>	455	175

\*Misc: power lines, fireworks, electric fences, etc.)

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