

## FOREST FIRE WARDEN & STATE FOREST RANGER

**Local:** Plainfield had a very quiet wild land fire season, both in the spring and fall seasons. We only had one grass fire all year. A lot had to do with the very wet spring we had. For the first time that I can remember we had no illegal burns this past year, though not a big problem, it seems we usually have several unpermitted burns each year. The town Forest Fire Wardens issued a total of one hundred and eighty two burn permits this past year, either seasonal permits or brush pile permits. I would like to thank all the people who requested these permits, we would much rather come out and issue a permit than get a call from dispatch to check on an unpermitted fire.

As a reminder you need a burn permit for any open burn if there is not sufficient snow cover to prevent the spread of the fire no matter what time of year it is. Just because it is "winter" does not mean there is enough snow as this year has proven. A list of wardens who can issue permits is listed on the town web site. Seasonal permits are good from January 1<sup>st</sup> until December 31<sup>st</sup>. There are pamphlets at the town office with all the rules for open burning including what is permissible to burn and what is not. A complete list of fire wardens who can issue permits may be found on the town's website.

**State:** This past fire season burned **661 acres** which was the most recorded since 1989 when 629 acres burned. The fire season began in early April with the first reported fire occurring on April 8th. The largest fire was the 275 acre Bayle Mountain fire in Ossipee. This fire started on May 5<sup>th</sup> and burned for several days. The Bayle Mt. fire was also the largest individual fire in NH in over 25 years. There were also a number of other sizable fires in May which definitely kept NH's wild land firefighting resources stretched to the limit. These larger fires increased the average wild land fire size to 5.12 acres. As usual our higher 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. Several of the fires during the 2015 season threatened structures, and a few structures were burned, a constant reminder that forest fires burn more than just trees. Homeowners should take measures to prevent a wild land 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 is available at [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org).

### NH FIRE STATISTICS

<u>CAUSES OF FIRES REPORTED-2015</u>		<u>TOTAL FIRES</u>		<u>TOTAL ACRES</u>
Campfires	13	<b>2015</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>661</b>
Lightning	05	<b>2014</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>72</b>
Equipment	06	<b>2013</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>144</b>
Arson	07	<b>2012</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>206</b>
Debris	17	<b>2011</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>42</b>
Children	03	<b>2010</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>145</b>
Smoking	12			
Misc*	71			

\*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.

*Frank Currier* Plainfield Fire Warden