

STATE FOREST RANGER

This past year we were fortunate enough to have favorable weather conditions in the spring and summer which limited the amount of wildfire activity throughout the state. Our fire lookouts are credited with keeping many fires small due to their quick and accurate spotting capabilities. The towers' fire detection efforts were 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. Several of the fires during the 2018 season threatened structures and one structure was destroyed, a constant reminder that wildfires burn more than just trees. Homeowners should take measures to prevent a wildfire 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. Please help Smokey Bear, your local fire department, and the state's Forest Rangers by being fire wise and fire safe! In 2019, we will be recognizing Smokey Bear's 75th birthday! Dressed in a ranger's hat, belted blue jeans, and carrying a shovel, he has been the recognized wildfire prevention symbol since 1944. The NH Forest Protection Bureau and local fire departments will be celebrating Smokey Bear's 75 years of wildfire prevention throughout the year. Smokey's message has always been about personal responsibility – remember his ABC's: Always Be Careful with fire. If you start a fire, put it out when you are done. **“Remember, Only You Can Prevent Wildfires!”**

Report of Forest Fire Warden and State Forest Ranger

As we prepare for the 2019 fire season, please remember to contact your local Forest Fire Warden or Fire Department to determine if a fire 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. Fire permits are also available online in most towns and may be obtained by visiting www.NHfirepermit.com. The burning of household waste is prohibited by the Air Resources Division of the Department of Environmental Services (DES). You are encouraged to contact the local fire department or DES at 603-271-3503 or www.des.nh.gov for more information. Safe open burning requires your diligence and responsibility. Thank you for helping 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.

NH FIRE STATISTICS

<u>CAUSES OF FIRES REPORTED-2017</u>		<u>Year</u>	<u># FIRES</u>	<u>ACRES</u>
Smoking	05	2018	053	46
Railroad	00	2017	064	107
Campfires	04	2016	351	1090
Lightning	02	2015	124	635
Equipment	06	2014	112	72
Arson	01	2013	182	144
Debris	10	2012	318	206
Children	01	2011	125	42
Misc*	24			

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



LOCAL FOREST FIRE WARDEN

2018 was a relatively quiet and safe year for forest fire related activities. Along with spring and late summer rains that kept the fire danger low as well as residents abiding by the fire rules, out of control brush fires were prevented. Throughout the year, the fire departments responded to only 2 calls where we had to extinguish a wildfire, which were both caused by trees coming in contact with power lines. We did have a few instances where landowners were not abiding by the rules. The primary issues were individuals burning during the daytime; and burning of illegal material (trash and large logs).

Burning rules are State of NH rules and the Town's wardens are there to enforce those rules under the direction of the State Forest Fire Warden and Rangers.

- You can only burn natural wood (No painted wood, plywood, trash, furniture or tires etc.).
- Burning is limited to between 5pm and 9am except for permitted small cooking fires.
- A permit is required for all outside fires except when there is snow on the ground.
- A permit is required even when raining.

For further information or explanation of the rules, please contact any of the forest fire wardens which can be found on the Town web page under the service/fire&rescue tab. A permit to burn can be issued a few days ahead of your planned fire. Please plan ahead, to allow the issuing agent ample time to inspect the site prior to your planned fire.

To purchase a permit through the State's online burn permitting service visit www.NHfirepermit.com. There is a \$3 fee for this online service. You must read and verify that you understand the rules, and print out a paper copy. If the daily fire danger is too high, it will not let you purchase the permit. For example, if the weather has been dry or the wind is predicted to be high, you will not be able to obtain a permit. If you are not the land owner, please contact one of the Wardens and they can assist you in obtaining a permit.

No matter how you obtain a permit, we ask that you notify the Hanover Dispatch Center at their non-emergency phone number anytime that you burn so that when someone reports seeing smoke, that it is likely your permitted burn and not a wildfire.

A matching grant was applied for and granted in conjunction with the state Division of Natural and Cultural Resources. The grant is funded 50/50 State/Town grant. This will allow us to purchase more protective equipment specifically designed for wildland fires and to update some of our lighter forestry hose and nozzles to be better prepared for “off road” fires.
As Smokey Bear says “**Remember, Only You Can Prevent Wildfires!**”

Plainfield Forest Fire Warden ***Bruce Elder***

Plainfield Forest Fire Wardens

Bruce Elder-	Warden	298-0408
Chris Berry	Deputy	843-5204
Lester Bouchier	Deputy	469-3256
Mark Horne	Deputy	996-1522
Jeff LeBlanc	Deputy	359-1031
Eric Pearce	Deputy	298-5580
Doug Plummer	Deputy	443-9616
Boone Rondeau	Deputy	675-6951
William Taylor	Deputy	469-3342
Matt Tucker	Deputy	306-1208