

REPORT OF THE FOREST FIRE WARDEN AND THE 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. Your local fire departments and the Division of Forests & Lands worked throughout the year to protect homes and the forests. The statewide system of 16 fire lookout towers continues to operate on high fire danger days. The towers' fire detection efforts are supplemented by the NH Civil Air Patrol when the fire danger is especially high.

As we prepare for the 2020 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 available online or may be obtained by contacting a the local warden or deputy warden. 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.nh.gov/nhdfl/.

NH FIRE STATISTICS

<u>CAUSES OF FIRES REPORTED-2019</u>		<u>Year</u>	<u># FIRES</u>	<u>ACRES</u>
Children	00	2019	015	23.5
Smoking	01	2018	053	46
Railroad	01	2017	064	107
Campfires	01	2016	351	1090
Lightning	01	2015	124	635
Equipment	01	2014	112	72
Arson	04	2013	182	144
Debris	03	2012	318	206
Misc*	03	2011	125	42

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

LOCAL FOREST FIRE WARDEN

2019 was a good year for outdoor fires. A wet spring and early fall snow kept us from having ANY out of control brush fires in Plainfield. However the fire department was called a few times to investigate the source of smoke seen during times when there should not have been anyone with an outside fire. For ALL days when there is not a significant snow cover, a permit to burn is required, even when it is raining. All outside fires have their own unique set of rules depending on size and what time of day it is, distance from structures and trees and many other variables, so it is best to talk to a forest fire warden or deputy warden prior to starting a fire.

There are a two ways to obtain a fire permit:

1. Contact any of the forest fire wardens for a free of charge permit – they are listed on the town’s web page under Fire&Rescue.

<https://www.plainfieldnh.org/fire.htm>

2. You can purchase (\$3) an online permit through the state of NH web site www.NHfirepermit.com.

If you have any questions about the rules for outside fires, please contact myself or any of the deputy wardens listed on the town web page.

Through the State Forestry Department and the Town Fire Department budget, we were awarded a small matching grant to replace some of our personal protective clothing to insure that all firefighters have the clothing and gear they need to safely fight a wildfire when one breaks out.

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
Doug Plummer	Deputy	443-9616
Boone Rondeau	Deputy	675-6951
William Taylor	Deputy	469-3342
Matt Tucker	Deputy	306-1208