

LOCAL FOREST FIRE WARDEN

2020 was an interesting year for the threat of wildfires in the town of Plainfield and the State of NH. Most of the State of NH was in drought conditions for most of the summer with super dry conditions in the fields and woodlands that resulted in the Governor instituting bans on outdoor burning. It was a stressful time for people in the fire service, but I am thankful to the people of Plainfield that we had NO out of control wildfires in our town in 2020. However, we did respond to a few unpermitted campfires, smoke investigations, a lightning strike, and a very small leaf fire due to the improper disposal of ashes. Our fire crews assisted other Upper Valley towns with containing 3 larger wildfires. The one call that was the most concerning was when someone had lit a “cooking” fire on French’s Ledges. They were gone upon our arrival and had tossed the still hot remnants of the sticks to the side in an attempt to put it out. It is NEVER ok to light a fire on someone else’s land without their permission– no matter how small. There are no public locations in Plainfield that you can have an outside fire that do not require a permit or notification to a Forest Fire Warden. 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. A seasonal permit is available and required for any cooking fires or fire pits that is valid for the calendar year.

There are 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 rules for outside fires, please contact myself or any of the deputy wardens listed on the town web page.

Again – many thanks to the people of Plainfield for being safe in 2020 and looking forward to 2021.

Bruce Elder
Plainfield Forest Fire Warden

As Smokey Bear says “**Remember, Only You Can Prevent Wildfires!**”

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

REPORT OF THE STATE FOREST RANGER

This year we experienced challenging wildfire conditions which led to deep burning fires in remote locations that were difficult to extinguish. 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.

Many homes in New Hampshire are located in the wildland urban interface, which is the area where homes and flammable wildland fuels intermix. Every year New Hampshire sees fires which threaten or destroy structures, 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!

As we prepare for the 2021 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 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/nhdf/. For up to date information, follow us on Twitter: [@NHForestRangers](https://twitter.com/NHForestRangers)

NH FIRE STATISTICS

<u>CAUSES OF FIRES REPORTED-2020</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u># FIRES</u>	<u>ACRES</u>
	2020	113	89
Children	2019	015	23.5
Smoking	2018	053	46
Railroad	2017	064	107
Campfires	2016	351	1090
Lightning	2015	124	635
Equipment	2014	112	72
Arson	2013	182	144
Debris	2012	318	206
Misc*	2011	125	42+



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