

Report of Forest Fire Warden and 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. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services also prohibits the open burning of household waste. Citizens are encouraged to contact the local fire department or DES at 603-271-1370 or www.des.state.nh.us for more information. Safe open burning requires diligence and responsibility. Help 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.

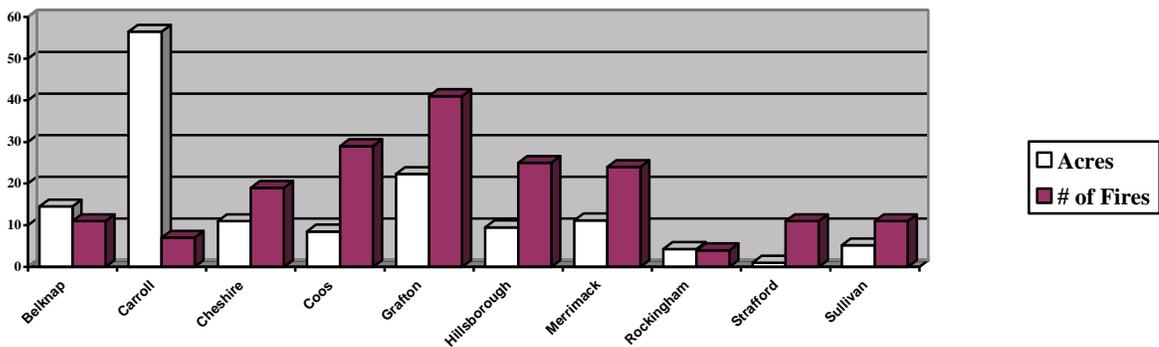
This past fire season started in early April with the first reported fire on April 7th. April, which is the traditional start to our spring fire season, began very dry with unseasonably dry conditions continuing through the entire month. This dry pattern continued through the first half of May. 80% of 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. 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 2014 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 wildland 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 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!

2014 FIRE STATISTICS

(All fires reported as of November 2014)

(figures do not include fires under the jurisdiction of the White Mountain National Forest)

COUNTY STATISTICS		
County	Acres	# of Fires
Belknap	3.1	5
Carroll	24	4
Cheshire	6.8	7
Coos	5.3	18
Grafton	8.2	32
Hillsborough	6.1	20
Merrimack	15.5	11
Rockingham	1.1	8
Strafford	0.4	5
Sullivan	1.5	2



CAUSES OF FIRES REPORTED

	Total	Fires	Total Acres
Arson	2	112	72
Debris	52	182	144
Campfire	10	318	206
Children	2	125	42
Smoking	5	360	145
Railroad	0		
Equipment	5		
Lightning	1		
Misc.*	35 (*Misc.: power lines, fireworks, electric fences, etc.)		

ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT WILDLAND FIRE