

Report of Forest Fire Warden and State Forest Ranger

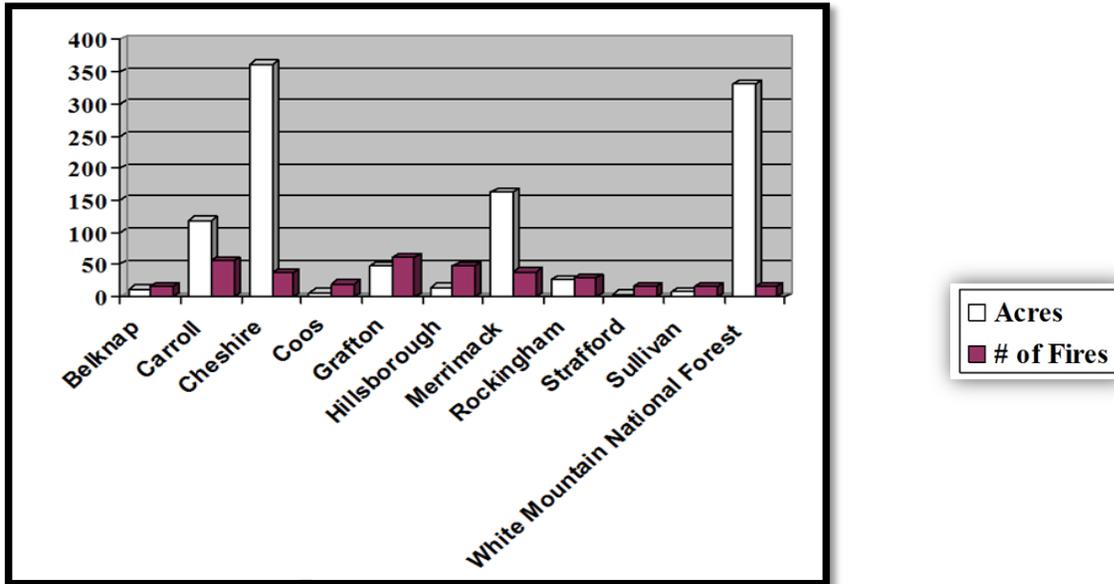
Over the past two years, New Hampshire has experienced its busiest fire seasons since 1989. 1,090 acres burned during the 2016 season. The White Mountain National Forest experienced its largest fire since becoming a National Forest, burning 330 acres in the town of Albany in November. Fires falling under state jurisdiction burned 759 acres, with the largest fire of 199 acres occurring in Stoddard. The extremely dry summer led to a busy fall fire season with large fires occurring into mid-November. Drought conditions hampered fire suppression efforts and extended the time needed to extinguish fires. Your local fire departments and the Division of Forests & Lands worked tirelessly 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. 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 2016 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!

As we prepare for the 2017 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.nhdfil.org.

2016 WILDLAND FIRE STATISTICS

(All fires reported as of December 2016)



CAUSES OF FIRES REPORTED								
(These numbers do not include the WMNF)								
Arson	Debris Burning	Campfire	Children	Smoking	Railroad	Equipment	Lightning	Misc.*
15	85	35	10	12	2	18	9	148

HISTORICAL DATA		
YEAR	NUMBER of FIRES	ACRES BURNED
2016	351	1090
2015	124	635
2014	112	72
2013	182	144
2012	318	206

REMEMBER, ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT WILDFIRES!