

Report of Forest Fire Warden and 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.

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!

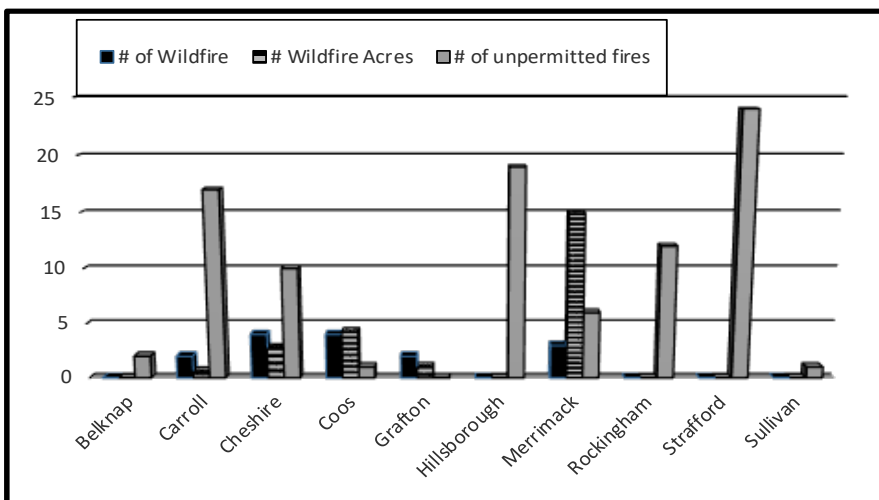
The Forest Protection Bureau and local fire departments were very busy this year celebrating Smokey Bear's 75th year preventing wildfires. Many events were held at local libraries, in fact, this program was so successful we will be offering it again in 2020. We were fortunate enough to partner with the Northeast Forest Fire Protection Compact and bring the Smokey Hot Air Balloon to Franconia Notch in August. The weather was fantastic and hundreds of people got the chance to ride in the balloon! 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!”**



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 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.nh.gov/nhdf/.

2019 WILDLAND FIRE STATISTICS

(All fires reported as of December 2019)



Year	Number of Wildfires	Wildfire Acres Burned	Number of Unpermitted Fires*
2019	15	23.5	92
2018	53	46	91
2017	65	134	100
2016	351	1090	159
2015	143	665	180

* Unpermitted fires which escape control are considered Wildfires.

CAUSES OF FIRES REPORTED

(These numbers do not include the WMNF)

Arson	Debris Burning	Campfire	Children	Smoking	Railroad	Equipment	Lightning	Misc.
4	3	1	0	1	1	1	1	3