

# Report of Forest Fire Warden and 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](http://www.firewise.org). Please help Smokey Bear, your local fire department, and the state's Forest Rangers by being fire wise and fire safe!

Between COVID-19 and the drought conditions, 2020 was a unique year. The drought conditions led to the need to have a Proclamation from the Governor, which banned much of the outdoor burning statewide. This, along with the vigilance of the public, helped to reduce the number of serious fires across New Hampshire. However, the fires which we did have burned deep and proved difficult to extinguish due to the lack of water. While the drought conditions have improved, we expect many areas of the state to still be experiencing abnormally dry and drought conditions this spring. For this reason, we ask everyone to remember Smokey's message about personal responsibility and follow 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!"**

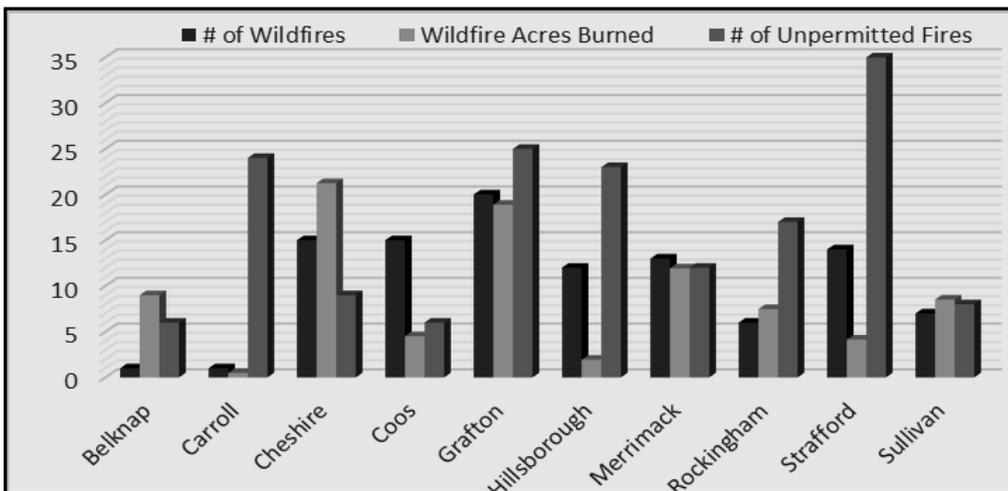
As we prepare for the 2021 fire season, please remember to contact your local Forest Fire Warden or Fire Department to determine if a fire permit is required before doing ANY outside burning. Under State law (RSA 227-L:17) a fire permit is required for all outside burning, unless the ground is completely covered with snow. Fire permits are also available online in most towns and may be obtained by visiting [www.NHfirepermit.com](http://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/nhdfl/](http://www.nh.gov/nhdfl/). For up to date information, follow us on Twitter: **@NHForestRangers**

Scan here for Fire Permits



## 2020 WILDLAND FIRE STATISTICS

(All fires reported as of December 01, 2020)



Year	Number of Wildfires	Wildfire Acres Burned	Number of Unpermitted Fires*
2020	113	89	165
2019	15	23.5	92
2018	53	46	91
2017	65	134	100
2016	351	1090	159

\*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	22	21	4	3	1	4	10	44

\*Miscellaneous includes power lines, fireworks, electric fences, etc...