

# Report of Forest Fire Warden and State Forest Ranger

This year was another year where we observed wet weather in early spring followed by rapid drying and drought conditions which extended through the summer for much of the state. Drying conditions in early May led to large fire growth on numerous fires which required multiple days to extinguish and firefighter response from local, state, and federal agencies. Wildfire activity continued through the summer months where dry conditions led to more multi-day fires. Fires burned deep into the ground, requiring firefighters to establish water supplies and to spend days digging out all the hot spots.

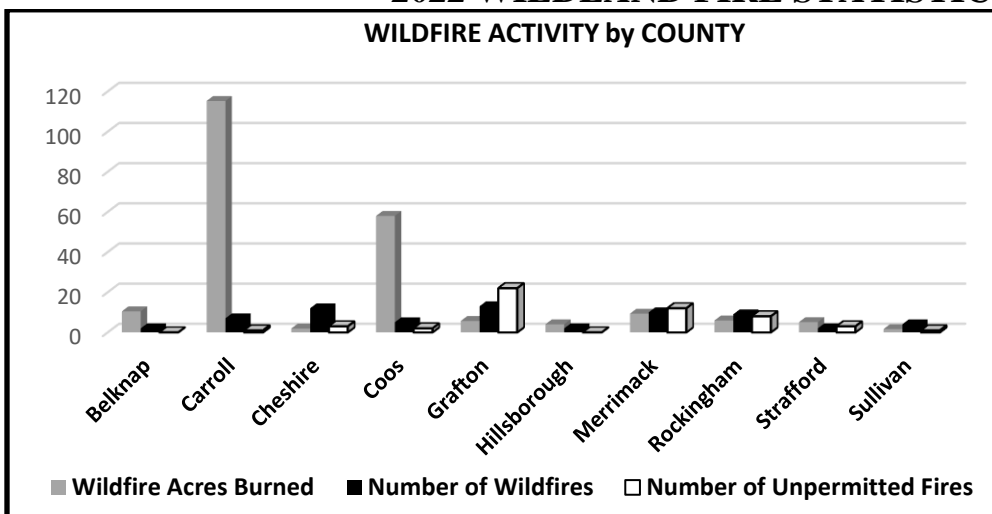
This fall we had multiple fires started by the careless disposal of woodstove ashes. Before dumping your woodstove ashes, you should place them in a covered metal container until they are out cold. Many homes in New Hampshire are located in the wildland urban interface, which is the area where homes 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!

The long-lasting drought effects in Rockingham County are showing some minor signs of improvement but a good portion of Rockingham County remains in moderate drought and much of the state is still in the abnormally dry category. While the drought conditions have improved, we expect some areas of the state may still be experiencing abnormally dry or 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 2023 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. 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/](http://www.nh.gov/nhdf/). For up-to-date information, follow us on Twitter and Instagram: [@NHForestRangers](https://twitter.com/NHForestRangers)



## 2022 WILDLAND FIRE STATISTICS



(All fires reported as of December 01, 2022)

Year	Number of Wildfires	Wildfire Acres Burned	Number of Unpermitted Fires*
2022	66	217	52
2021	66	86	96
2020	113	89	165
2019	15	23.5	92
2018	53	46	91

\*Unpermitted fires which escape control are considered Wildfires.

## CAUSES of FIRES REPORTED

Railroad operations & maintenance	Firearm & explosives use	Undetermined	Recreation & ceremony	Debris & open burning	Natural	Other causes	Power generation, transmission, distribution	Smoking	Arson	Misuse of fire by a minor	Equipment & vehicle use
1	3	21	4	60	7	5	7	1	2	1	3