

## Report of the 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, the Fremont 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: **A**lways **B**e **C**areful 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 the Fremont Forest Fire Warden at 603 895 9634 x 201 (or ask for the Fire Duty Officer) 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 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 Fremont Fire Rescue Department for more information at 603 895 9634. 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**



## 2022 NH Wildland Fire Statistics

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

Statistics for all fires reported as of December 1, 2022.

Unpermitted fires which escape control are considered Wildfires.

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

You no longer call Raymond Dispatch to leave a message regarding burning permits. Our Fire Rescue Dispatch has switched over to the Rockingham County Sheriff's

Department. Always call the Fremont Fire Rescue Department at 603 895 9634 x 201. You can ask to be directed to that voicemail box, or ask for the Fire Duty Officer when you call. The Fire Rescue Department IS NOT manned 24/7. Often you will need to leave a message for the Fire Duty Officer to return your call to obtain a permit. You should always call before 5 pm daily.

You can also obtain a permit on line, when conditions permit. Visit

<https://nh.burnsafeamerica.com/>

