

## Report of the Fire Rescue Department

As the year 2023 ended, members of the Fremont Fire Rescue Department took delivery of our new light rescue truck. The members have been working on where to locate and mount the equipment for ease of access. We will be doing training on the new vehicle to get everyone



familiarized with its operation so we can put it into service.

Thanks to the support from Townspeople of Warrant Article number 6 last year, we will be taking delivery of a new tanker this summer. This replaces a truck that is over 35 years old. Both vehicles will serve the Town well for years to come.

The men and women of the Department have been busy with 532 calls for service in the past year. As with most other departments in the area, most of the calls were for medical issues. As our Town continues to grow the need for hiring full-time people to respond to calls during the day is fast approaching. Our members do an excellent job responding to the needs of our residents and visitors, but all have jobs that take them out of town during the day. If you are interested in joining the Department, we are at the station every Monday evening, or you can speak with any one of our members. It is a big commitment between training and calls but the feeling of helping your neighbor when they are having a problem is rewarding.

Our members are a dedicated group who give up a lot of family time to attend classes and different training to make sure they stay on top of their game. Two of our members attended Firefighter One while three others took their Emergency Medical Technician class, both of these classes are over 150 hours each. I want to thank their families for allowing them to spend so much time doing this. We collaborate with the members of the Fremont Police Department and the Highway Department during different incidents and thank them for their help, and the Town Officials for their support of the Department.

We are able to cover 90% of the shift coverage hours (nights and weekends) when Raymond Ambulance Inc does not have staff in their station.

Fire Calls for 2023	
Smoke/ Odor Investigations	11
Fire Alarms - Services Rendered	31
CO Alarms - Services Rendered	6
Accidents - MVA, ATV, Other	2
Structural Fires	4
Chimney Fires	4
Appliance Fires	3
Dumpster Fire	1
Brush/ Forest Fires	1
Mutual Aid - Services Rendered	18
Propane Leak / Haz Mat Incidents	2
Tree on Wires / Wires Down	4
Illegal Burns	7
Misc. Calls - Services Rendered	14
<b>Total For the Year</b>	<b>108</b>

EMS Calls for 2023	
EMS Incidents	416
Combined Fire/EMS	8
<b>Total for the Year</b>	<b>424</b>

It is noteworthy that there was an overall increase of 29 calls in 2023 over 2022; which was 79 over 2021 and 20 over 2020. As our population grows, so does call volume.

Respectfully submitted,

Chief Richard Butler

## Report of Forest Fire Warden and State Forest Ranger

This past year we observed wet weather in late spring and throughout the summer. This led to reduced wildfire activity throughout the state and allowed many of our state firefighting resources to respond to Nova Scotia and Quebec to assist our Canadian neighbors with their record wildfire season. We were also able team up with local fire departments and provide many wildfire trainings throughout the state.

This time of year, we see fires caused 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. Even with the lower wildfire threat in New Hampshire in 2023, properties within the Wildland Urban Interface were still impacted, with 8 structures threatened and 3 destroyed by wildfires. 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 Rescue Department, and the state's Forest Rangers by being fire wise and fire safe! 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 2024 fire season, please remember to contact the Fremont Forest Fire Warden through the Fremont Fire Rescue 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

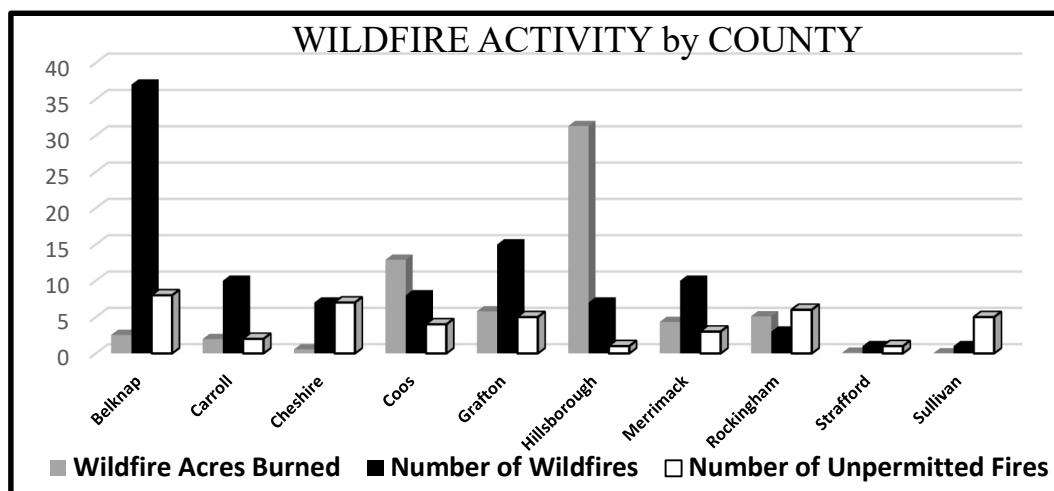


household waste is prohibited by the Air Resources Division of the Department of Environmental Services. You are encouraged to contact the Fremont Fire Rescue Department for more information. Safe open burning requires your diligence and responsibility. Thank you for helping us to protect New Hampshire's 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 X and Instagram: @NHForestRangers

### **2023 Causes of Fire Reported in NH – Includes all fires reported as of December 1, 2023**

Undetermined 22	Recreation & ceremony 3
Debris & open burning	Natural 4
Other causes 4	Power generation, transmission, distribution 80
Smoking 1	Arson 2
Equipment & vehicle use 4	

### **2023 WILDLAND FIRE STATISTICS**



Year	Number of Wildfires	Wildfire Acres Burned	Number of Unpermitted Fires*
2023	99	64.5	42
2022	59	203	48
2021	66	86	96
2020	113	89	165
2019	15	23.5	92

\*Unpermitted fires which escape control are considered Wildfires.



Photos courtesy of Michelle Gallant