

FIRE DEPARTMENT

To The Citizens and Taxpayers of Newton:

2012 has past and it's time to write another year-end report. The past year was a fairly typical year, (1 major structure fire). Call volume did decrease by 25%. The past 3 year average is 318 per year. There was 1 weather event, Octobers' hurricane Sandy. She caused minimal damage but did cause power outages. As always, all town departments worked very well together to assist the citizens of Newton.

The department would like to thank, 27 year veteran firefighter and Deputy Chief, Dale Putnam for his years of service; his experience and expertise will be greatly missed. Deputy Putnam retired November 1, 2012.

I am asking the voters of the town to support a fire department warrant article for the purchase of a 3,000 gallon tank truck. The department has the majority of the money through its Capital Reserve Fund but need a minimal amount (compared to the total cost) for the purchase. This will replace our 1984 tanker 4. With the purchase of this tanker it will give us 7500 gallons of water to respond with.

The following paragraph appeared in last year's report but I feel it's worth repeating:
On a safety note, Fire and Police would like to request everyone to display your house number, especially in common and long driveways. Numbers should be visible from the street in reflective or contrasting color to the background. Common driveways should have a sign at the street, listing the numbers on that driveway especially when there are multiple homes. These numbers are readily available at your local Home Depot or Lowes. This could save someone's life!

In closing, I would like to thank the citizens of Newton for their continued support. It is our job to keep the town safe; this is a responsibility that we take willingly and seriously. I would also thank the firefighters and officers (past and present) of this department for your willingness to make this department what it is.

If anyone has any questions, concerns or comments about your Fire Department, please call or stop in.

REMEMBER SMOKE/CO DETECTORS SAVE LIVES AND HOUSE NUMBERS SAVE TIME!

Respectfully submitted,
William E. Ingalls
Fire Chief

FIRE DEPARTMENT CALLS FOR SERVICE:

Building Fire	2	Arcing, Shorted Electrical Equip.	4
Fire, Other	0	Service Call, Other	1
Chimney or Flue Fire	4	Good Intent Call	1
Excessive Heat with no ignition	0	Water Problem, Other	0
Passenger Vehicle Fire	3	Assist Police or Other Gov. Agency	3
Brush / Grass Fire	2	Smoke Detector Activation-malfunction	2
Air or Gas Rupture	0	Unauthorized Burning	5
Rescue, EMS Incident, Other	4	Cover Assignment, Standby, Move up	29
Dispatched & Canceled En Route	0	Smoke or Odor Removal	7
EMS Call Excluding Motor Vehicle Acc	174	Authorized Controlled Burning	5
Motor Vehicle Accident w/ Injuries	9	Smoke Scare, Odor of Smoke	1
Motor Vehicle Accident w/ No Injuries	10	False Alarm / Alarm Unintentional	3
Chemical Hazard	0	Water or Steam Leak	0
Fuel Burner/Boiler Malfunction	0	Alarm System Sounded/Malfunction	9
Carbon Monoxide Detector Activation	2	Smoke Detector/Alarm-Unintentional	3
Lock in / Lock out	1	CO Detector Activation, Malfunction	2
Power Line Down	1	Gas Leak	0
Heat From Short Circuit	0	Water Evacuation	0

Total **287**

Service Calls Inc. Permits Aprox. 250

Respectfully submitted,
William Ingalls
Fire Chief

FOREST FIRE WARDEN AND STATE FOREST RANGER

Your local Forest Fire Warden, Fire Department, and the State of New Hampshire Division of Forests & Lands, work collaboratively to reduce the risk and frequency of wild land fires in New Hampshire. To help us assist you, please contact your local Forest Fire Warden or Fire Department to determine if a 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. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services also prohibits the open burning of household waste. Citizens are encouraged to contact the local fire department or DES at 603-271-1370 or www.des.state.nh.us for more information. Safe open burning requires diligence and responsibility. Help 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.nhdf.org.

Due to a record warm winter and little snow, our first fire occurred on February 4th with several more early fires to follow. Normally a large percentage of the warm windy days with low humidity occur when the ground is saturated from a long snow covered winter. By the time the surface fuels and ground dry out enough to burn, we only have a few weeks until "green up". This year however we had an extended period of these favorable spring fire conditions. Our largest fire in the state was 86 acres. The average size fire was .6 acres. Extensive summer rains kept total acreage burned to near normal levels.

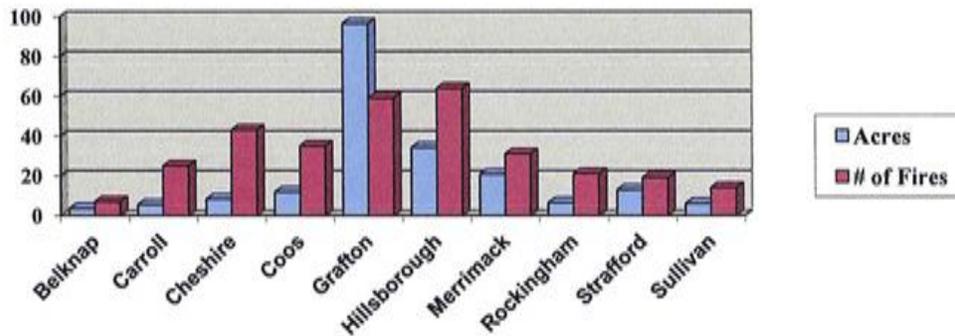
As has been the case over the last few years, state budget constraints have limited the staffing of our statewide system of 16 fire lookout towers to Class III or higher fire danger days. Despite the reduction in the number of days staffed, our fire lookouts are credited with keeping most fires small and saving several structures due to their quick and accurate spotting capabilities. The towers fire spotting was supplemented by the NH Civil Air Patrol when the fire danger was especially high. Several of the fires during the 2012 season threatened structures, a constant reminder that forest fires burn more than just trees. Please help Smokey Bear, your local fire department, and the state's Forest Rangers by being fire wise and fire safe!

2012 FIRE STATISTICS

(All fires reported as of October 2012)

(figures do not include fires under the jurisdiction of the White Mountain National Forest)

COUNTY STATISTICS		
County	Acres	# of Fires
Belknap	3.6	7
Carroll	5.5	25
Cheshire	8.3	43
Coos	11.8	35
Grafton	96.5	59
Hillsborough	34.2	64
Merrimack	20.8	31
Rockingham	6.4	21
Strafford	12.9	19
Sullivan	6	14



OF FIRES REPORTED		CAUSES		
		Total	Fires	Total Acres
Arson	14	2012	318	206
Debris	105	2011	125	42
Campfire	14	2010	360	145
Children	15	2009	334	173
Smoking	17	2008	455	175
Railroad	0			
Equipment	6			
Lightning	7			
Misc.*	140 (*Misc.: power lines, fireworks, electric fences, etc.)			

ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT WILDLAND FIRE