

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

To The Citizens and Taxpayers of Newton:

The year 2013 is behind us and it's once again time to start a new year. The past year was a fairly quiet year; no major structure, brush fires or weather events. I'm sure this won't continue the way the weather has been recently! Call volume did decrease slightly in 2013.

We are again asking the voters of the town to support fire department warrant article #16 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 7,500 gallons of water to respond with.

The following paragraph appeared in last year's report but we feel it's worth repeating:  
On a safety note, Fire and Police would like to request everyone 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, we 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 (603) 382-8811 or stop in.

**REMEMBER, SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE (The "Invisible" Killer) DETECTORS SAVE LIVES AND HOUSE NUMBERS SAVE TIME!**

Respectfully submitted,  
William E. Ingalls  
Fire Chief

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT CALLS FOR SERVICE:**

Building Fire	0	Arcing, Shorted Electrical Equip.	3
Fire, Other	3	Service Call, Other	13
Chimney or Flue Fire	1	Good Intent Call	2
Excessive Heat with no ignition	1	Water Problem, Other	0
Passenger Vehicle Fire	1	Assist Police or Other Gov. Agency	3
Brush / Grass Fire	2	Smoke Detector Activation-malfunction	5
Dumpster / Outside Trash	2	Unauthorized Burning	5
Rescue, EMS Incident, Other	7	Cover Assignment, Standby, Move up	22
Dispatched & Canceled En Route	0	Smoke or Odor Removal	4

EMS Call Excluding Motor Vehicle Acc	133	Authorized Controlled Burning	4
Motor Vehicle Accident w/ Injuries	6	Smoke Scare, Odor of Smoke	1
Motor Vehicle Accident w/ No Injuries	9	False Alarm / Alarm Unintentional	2
Chemical Hazard	2	Water or Steam Leak	0
Fuel Burner/Boiler Malfunction	0	Alarm System Sounded/Malfunction	12
Carbon Monoxide Detector Activation	2	Smoke Detector/Alarm-Unintentional	5
Lock in / Lock out	3	CO Detector Activation, Malfunction	4
Power Line Down	1	Gas Leak	0
Heat From Short Circuit	0	Water Evacuation	1

Total **259**

Service Calls Inc. Permits Aprox. 175

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](http://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.nhdfi.org](http://www.nhdfi.org).

This past fire season started in late March with the first reported fire on March 26th 2013. April, which is the traditional start to our spring fire season, started very dry with little measurable precipitation until the middle of the month. Approximately 70% of our reportable fires occurred during the months of April and May. The largest fire was 51 acres on April 29th. 81% of our fires occurred on class 3 or 4 fire danger days. By mid May, extensive rains began which provided us with a very wet summer overall. We had a longer fall fire season due to drier than normal conditions following leaf fall. Fortunately most of these fires were small and quickly extinguished. 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. Many homes in New Hampshire are located in the wild land urban interface, which is the area where homes and flammable wild land fuels intermix. Several of the fires during the 2013 season threatened structures, a constant reminder that forest fires burn more than just trees. Homeowners should take measures to prevent a wild land fire from spreading to their home. Precautions include keeping your roof and gutters clear of leaves and pine needles,

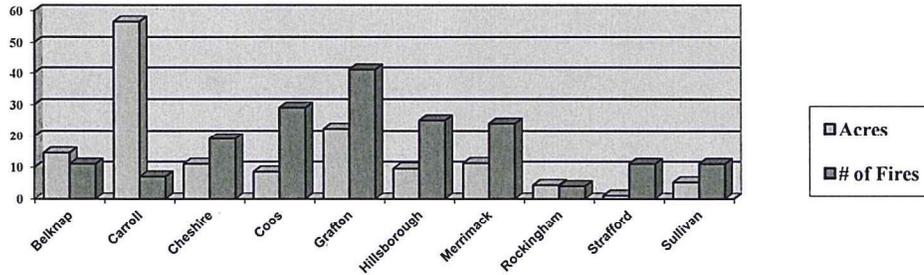
and maintaining adequate green space around your home free of flammable materials. Additional information and homeowner recommendations are available at [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org). Please help Smokey Bear, your local fire department, and the state's Forest Rangers by being fire wise and fire safe!

**2013 FIRE STATISTICS**

(All fires reported as of October 2013)

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

COUNTY STATISTICS		
County	Acres	# of Fires
Belknap	14.5	11
Carroll	56.5	7
Cheshire	11	19
Coos	8.5	29
Grafton	22.3	41
Hillsborough	9.5	25
Merrimack	11.2	24
Rockingham	4.3	4
Strafford	1	11
Sullivan	5.2	11



CAUSES OF FIRES REPORTED		Total	Fires	Total Acres
Arson	1	2013	182	144
Debris	69	2012	318	206
Campfire	12	2011	125	42
Children	1	2010	360	145
Smoking	10	2009	334	173
Railroad	0			
Equipment	4			
Lightning	0			
Misc.*	85	(*Misc.: power lines, fireworks, electric fences, etc.)		

ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT WILDLAND FIRE