

FIRE DEPARTMENT

To The Citizens and Taxpayers of Newton:

The Newton Fire Department consists of 35 paid on-call professionals staffing the town's two fire stations. The Central Fire Station is located at 35 South Main Street and the Newton Junction Station is located at 29 West Main Street. The members of the department respond to all fire related incidents, HazMat, motor vehicle accidents, water rescues, ice rescues, mutual aid, service calls, and EMS calls.

The fire department this year saw a new Fire Chief, record snow fall, and an increase in calls for service. I am proud to say that the members welcomed me and were ready to assist the residents in their time of need during any type of weather.

This year the department has had several major incidents with an increase in total call volume of approximately 9%, with just over 538 calls for service this year compared to last year's 492. The department seen an increase this year in fires, mutual aid calls but, EMS calls for service topped the list with close to 63.01% of total call volume.

This year the town voted to approve the purchase of a new 3,000 gallon tanker truck which is scheduled to be delivered in mid-March of this year. The fire department's last apparatus purchase was Engine 1 back in 1998.

This year the department has adopted an approved National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) maintenance schedule for all of its apparatus fire pumps, apparatus ladders, all of its fire hoses, etc.

This year the department had four members sadly choose to retire. The department would like to thank them for their years of service to the town. The department however has grown with 11 new members. (Five past members choosing to re-join and six new Firefighters/EMT's).

The department is proud to announce that it is now providing free home safety inspections to all town residents, please contact the Fire Chief at 382-8811 to set up your free safety check today.

On a safety note, the Fire Department would like once again to request that everyone display their house number. These numbers should be clearly 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. These numbers are available through the Newton Firefighters Association by calling the Fire Station at 603-382-8811 or can be purchased at any home repair retailer. Your house number 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 very seriously. I would also thank the Firefighters, Officers, EMT's and Drivers of this department for taking the time and effort to make this department what it is today.

If anyone has any questions, concerns or comments about your Fire Department, please call 382-8811 or stop into the Central Fire Station during normal business hours. You can also follow us on Face Book, Newton NH Fire Department, Twitter, @NewtonFireNH, or visit our web page, Newtonfire.com, for up to date safety information, including major weather events and fire department activities.

REMEMBER, SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE (The “Invisible” Killer) DETECTORS SAVE LIVES AND HOUSE NUMBERS INSTALLED PROPERLY SAVE TIME!

IN AN EMERGENCY, CALL 911. PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE FIRE STATION FOR EMERGENCIES.

FIRE DEPARTMENT CALLS FOR SERVICE:

Building Fire	7	Hazardous Condition, Other	2
Fire, Other	1	Gas Leak	1
Chimney or Flue Fire	2	Oil or other Combustible Liquid Spill	1
Fuel Burner / Boiler Malfunction	1	Carbon Monoxide Incident	3
Passenger Vehicle Fire	2	Power Line Down	1
Brush / Grass Fire	1	Arcing, Shorted Electrical Equipment	1
		Accident, Potential Accident, Other	2
Dumpster / Outside Trash	3	Structure Weakened or Collapsed	3
Forest, Woods and Wild Land Fires	1		
Outside Rubbish, trash	2	Service Call, Other	2
Outside Equipment Fire	1	Person in Distress	6
		Lock-Out	2
EMS Call Excluding Motor Vehicle Acc	186	Water Problem, Other	1
Motor Vehicle Accident w/ Injuries	6	Smoke or Odor Removal	9
Motor Vehicle Accident w/ No Injuries	7	Public Service Assistance	1
Emergency Medical Service	8	Unauthorized Burning	5
Pedestrian Accident	2	Cover Assignment, Standby or Move up	5
Search for Person on Land	1		
Watercraft Rescue	1		
Rescue or EMS Standby	2	False Alarm or False Call, Other	1
		System Malfunction	4
Good Intent Call, Other	2	Smoke Detector Activation	10
Dispatched & Cancelled	7	Alarm System Sounded – Malfunction	11
No Incident Found on Arrival	1	CO Detector Sounded – Malfunction	4
Authorized Controlled Burning	2	Unintentional Transmission of Alarm	3
Prescribed Fire	1	Smoke Detector Activation, No Fire	3
Vicinity Alarm	1	CO Detector Activation, No CO	1
Smoke Scare, Odor of Smoke	5		
Steam, Vapor, Fog or Dust – Smoke	1	Severe Weather or Natural Disaster	1
HazMat Release	1		
		Fire Permits, Fire Inspections	200

Respectfully Submitted,
John R. Alcaldinho
Fire Chief

FOREST FIRE WARDEN AND STATE FOREST RANGER

Report of 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 wildland 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 ability to obtain fire permits on line was initiated in 2015. Approximately 120 towns participated in the online system with over 4,000 permits issued. To obtain a permit on line visit www.NHfirepermit.com. 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 603-271-3503 or www.des.nh.gov 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.nhdfl.org.

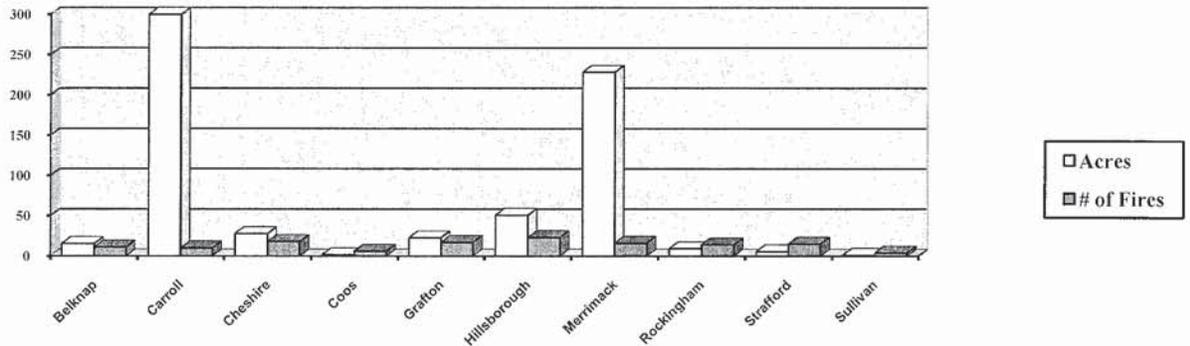
This past fire season burned **661 acres** which was the most recorded since 1989 when 629 acres burned. The fire season began in early April with the first reported fire occurring on April 8th. The largest fire was the 275 acre Bayle Mountain fire in Ossipee. This fire started on May 5th and burned for several days. The Bayle Mt. fire was also the largest individual fire in NH in over 25 years. There were also a number of other sizable fires in May which definitely kept NH's wildland firefighting resources stretched to the limit. These larger fires increased the average wildland fire size to 5.12 acres. As usual our higher fire danger days correlated well with the days that there were fires actually reported. The statewide system of 16 fire lookout towers continues to operate on Class III or higher fire danger days. 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 capability was supplemented by the NH Civil Air Patrol when the fire danger was especially high. Many homes in New Hampshire are located in the wildland urban interface, which is the area where homes and flammable wildland fuels intermix. Several of the fires during the 2015 season threatened structures, and a few structures were burned, a constant reminder that forest fires burn more than just trees. Homeowners should take measures to prevent a wildland 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. Please help Smokey Bear, your local fire department, and the state's Forest Rangers by being fire wise and fire safe!

2015 FIRE STATISTICS

(All fires reported as of November 2015)

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

COUNTY STATISTICS		
County	Acres	# of Fires
Belknap	15.3	11
Carroll	299.5	10
Cheshire	27.6	18
Coos	1.6	6
Grafton	22.6	17
Hillsborough	50.6	23
Merrimack	228	16
Rockingham	9.2	14
Strafford	5.5	15
Sullivan	1.1	4



CAUSES OF FIRES REPORTED

Acres

		Total	Fires	Total
Arson	7	2015	134	661
Debris	17	2014	112	72
Campfire	13	2013	182	144
Children	3	2012	318	206
Smoking	12	2011	125	42
Railroad	0			
Equipment	6			
Lightning	5			
Misc.*	71			

(*Misc.: power lines, fireworks, electric fences, etc.)

ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT WILDLAND FIRE

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

2015 was a record breaking year. Over 116" of snow caused our "on call" Emergency Operating Center Team to assist our Town Residents. Our Team assisted residents during the excessive snow in many ways while conducting "Well Being Checks".

Our Emergency Management Department continues to be proactive and not reactive. They maintain a level of education as required by Home Land Security and work in the best interests of our residents during challenging weather-related conditions, often times leaving their family at home in order to help Newton residents.

In 2015 the Seabrook Power Plant continued with their bi-annual drill with the Federal Government and the towns in their jurisdictional area. Newton's Emergency Response Team did a fabulous job and achieved a score of A+ from the State and Federal Government. All trainings and drills are paid for by the Seabrook Power Plant. In addition to this, many times the Seabrook Plant can supply equipment that may be needed during emergencies, and at no cost to the town.

The Emergency Management Department was able to receive a Grant this year for a "Thermal Imaging Camera as well as a Generator, Cord Reels and Gas Meters" for the Fire Department. Our Emergency Management Director also received a Digital Camera which will be used to document damage, which in turn will allow the town to receive reimbursements through the State and FEMA. At this time we are in the process of obtaining another Grant which will be used to upgrade the phone system at the Emergency Operating Center (EOC) as well as the Fire Department. Both of these Grants come to a little under \$30,000.

Our Emergency Operating Center staff will continue to contribute their skills and expertise in response to various emergencies. This is a reminder that when they are conducting well-being checks, please let them know if you have any particular needs, including power for medical equipment, food, water and/or shelter. This Team of men and women will be able to communicate immediately to our Police and Fire Departments as well as the Road Agent. The Emergency Management Department also has information about disaster preparedness, road closures and additional weather information and reports from Unitil and Home Land Security.

We encourage you to fill out paperwork at the Newton Town Hall that allows you to be kept up-to-date with emergencies via our "Phone Alert System". Remember to let us know if you have pets and/or Special Needs. Our Paperwork and forms will also be available on Election Day. We have included a "Winter Storm Checklist" that you should keep handy. You can also download this list by going to www.preparis.com.

Check expiration dates on anything in your stock pile and remember to keep the Newton Emergency Management phone number handy: **603-382-1610**.

1. Keep bottled water and cans of food (don't forget food for pets)
2. Gas camping stove or grill
3. Heat Source in case you don't have power
4. First-Aid kit, candles and matches
5. Flashlight and extra batteries
6. If possible purchase a NOAA weather Radio

7. Keep phone number in a paper file (incase power is lost or your cell phone dies)
8. You may want to put water in you bathtub, so if we lose power you can use the tub water with a bucket to flush the toilet
9. If you lose power, you might want to leave faucets dripping to prevent pipes from freezing
10. Hypothermia may include confusion, slurred speech, lack of fine motor skills, drowsiness and bright red skin that is cold to the touch
11. Watch for symptoms of frostbite (loss of feeling and color in the affected area and skin may feel waxy or unusually firm)

Things to keep in your car:

1. Shovel, tire chains, sand and salt
2. Windshield scrappers
3. Tool box, road maps and compass
4. Blankets, emergency flares and signs indicating you need help
5. Extra boots, scarf, hat and gloves
6. Spare tire and emergency tire repair kit

The Town of Newton Emergency Management Department Team includes:

Larry Foote - Emergency Management Director;
 Trisha McCarthy - Deputy Emergency Management Director;
 Melissa Adams - Emergency Management Secretary and Web EOC Operator;
 EOC Staff: Deb Alcaindinho, Nancy Wrigley, Jim Doggett, Matt Burrill, Kristin Sirois,
 Ricky Harris and Courtney Foote.

Respectfully submitted,
 Lawrence Foote
 Emergency Management Director

GALE LIBRARY REPORT

Your public library continues to offer a myriad of literature, programs, movies, music, language instruction, and much more for all age groups. Some of the interesting lending items that are available to you include a collection of baking pans, board games, wii games, electricity monitoring devices, telescope, ukulele, and an ongoing puzzle swap. There is something for everyone to enjoy.

We have joined the NH 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program that was launched this year. Canvas reading bags will be distributed to those when they reach a milestone of 100 books that have been read. For more information and resources please visit:

<http://chilis.nhlibrarians.org/?s=1%2C000+books+before+kindergarten&submit=Go>.

Registration for this program will be on an ongoing basis.

A Gold Circle School Partnership Award to the Gale Library was received from the New Hampshire Partners in Education. We are honored to have received this prestigious recognition and enjoy the rewards of working together with our schools.

The Friends of the Gale Library have provided discounted tickets to area attractions, seasonal flowers, folding tables, books, and a very poignant granite memorial bench for our dear friend

and co-worker, Lisa Fortin. Lisa is greatly missed by many; this special bench is a place to sit and recall fond memories of a remarkable lady. Our gratitude is expressed to the Friends for their assistance and thoughtfulness throughout the year.

Downloadable eBooks and audio books may be found at: <http://nh.lib.overdrive.com>.

Please contact us for your prefix number to log in.

Digital periodicals are new this year and can be downloaded to your smartphone or tablet. Users may download three periodical titles per week in addition to three downloadable books.

Our online catalog can be located at: <https://galelibrary.follettdestiny.com>. Renewals and holds may be placed remotely and the site is available at any time.

A reminder that we also offer Interlibrary Loan service for additional materials: <http://www.nhupac.library.state.nh.us/ipac20/ipac.jsp?profile=>.

Requests may be made in person, by phone, or our email at galelibraryreads@comcast.net.

A genealogy online subscription to Ancestry Library edition can be located at: <http://www.ancestrylibrary.com>. Please visit: <http://nhlibrarians.org/calculator> and see for yourself the financial savings that can be experienced by visiting your library.

A warm welcome to Julie Lamere, a new Alternate Library Board of Trustee member. Thank you very much to outgoing Trustee members, Marilyn Landry and Sally Woodman. The entire Board of Trustees has the best interests of the library community in mind and provides their support with enthusiasm.

A 40th anniversary celebration party was held in June for Elizabeth (Betty) Standing. Betty's library friends and family stopped by to share this happy time with her and reminisce through the years.

We are also pleased for the addition of two new Library Pages, Kara Hahn and Molly Breslin, who provide substitute staffing assistance throughout the year.

Appreciation is noted to the Trustees, Friends, Patrons, and Staff in their collaborative efforts to provide an environment for the community that is utilized as an academic, recreational and social resource.

Stop by to visit us in 2016, we will welcome you with a library tour, service and a smile!

(Please refer to the statistical report for a listing of library programs, acquisitions, and usage over the year.)

Respectfully submitted,
Theresa E. Caswell, Library Director

Gale Library Board of Trustees
Lynne Camp, Chairperson
Anne Banks, Secretary
Kathy Meserve, Treasurer
Julie Lamere, Alternate

GALE LIBRARY REPORT

Library Statistics – 2015

TOTAL REGISTERED USERS **5,002**
Total Library Visitors **10,899**

TOTAL CIRCULATION: **27,893**

Adult Fiction	5,354	Juvenile Fiction	2,537
Adult Non Fiction	1,907	Juvenile Non Fiction	571
Periodicals	1,869	Graphic Novels	398
NH OverDrive Downloadable Books	1,587	Early Reader Fiction	7,007
Cake Pans	9	Early Reader Non Fiction	553
VHS	37	Audio Books	414
CDs	250	Reads-to-Go Kit	5
DVDs	5,287	Telescope	2
Games	105	Miscellaneous	1

USAGE OF EQUIPMENT: **29,331**

Museum Passes	39	Meeting Room Use	658
Internet Access/Productivity	8,646		
Electronic Databases	19,988		

INTERLIBRARY LOAN: **884**

Books borrowed from NH Libraries: 342
Books loaned to other NH Libraries: 542 *figure already included in circulation #

TOTAL CIRCULATION & USAGE: **57,224**

BOOKS ADDED:	1,202	AUDIO/VISUAL ADDED	320
Gifts/Donations:	174	Audio books	33
Reference:	7	CDs:	26
Purchased:	1,021	DVDs:	259
		Miscellaneous	2

2015 LIBRARY PROGRAMS

Crafty Bookworms	Seasonal Crafts
Book Review Circle (2 Groups)	Drop Everything and Read Day
Technology Workshops	Young Adult Activities
Cribbage Nights	Open Mike Nights
School Outreach Programs	Art Exhibits
Read Across America	Summer/Winter Reading Programs
Movie Matinees	Power to Choose Electricity Presentation
Story Hours	Kindergarten Visit
Cub Scouts Visit	Friends' Trick or Treat Party

2015 LIBRARY PROGRAMS continued

Slinky Races
Bingo for Books
Frozen-Theme Night
International Dot Day
Game Nights for Teens
Fine Free Month
Identity, Frauds, and Scams Workshop
Growums Gardening Workshop
Luminaries Workshop
3D Doodler Pen Workshops
Take Your Child to the Library Day
Genealogy 101 Workshop
Brian Hikes Home Presentation
Backyard Chicken Basics Presentation
Angel Tree

Papercraft Workshop
International Game Day
Star Wars Read Day
Friends' Tea Party
Pumpkin Carving Night
Dr. Matt Health Workshop
Chef Liz Barbour Cooking Presentation
Pokémon Party Night
Library Card Party
Crazy 8's Program Series
Resume/Interview Workshop
We are Market Basket Author Visit
Marble River String Bank Performance
Deborah Wyndham Holiday Performance
Friends' Holiday Basket Raffle

SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Every Hero Has a Story

Steve Blunt Sing-a-Long
Pennants Workshop
Touch a Truck Visit
Minecraft Night
Pinwheels Craft
Superhero Mask Workshop
Superhero Teddy Bear Sleepover
Movie Matinees

Lego Workshop
NHSPCA Visit
Frisbee Craft
Superhero Training Camp
Talent Show
Rockets There and Back MOS Visit
Frozen Night
Ice Cream Party

STAFF ACTIVITIES

Meetings Attended 88

LIBRARY USE VALUE CALCULATOR

<http://www.nhlibrarians.org/calculator.html>

Respectfully submitted,
Theresa E. Caswell
Library Director