

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

How quickly time flies by, its 2011 already! 2010 was an average year with 294 incidents with 190(64.62%) being Rescue and Emergency Medical Service incidents. We had 2 building fires which were relatively minor. In March there several weather events in which the Department provide assistance to several residents and the Emergency Management Department.

We've all probably noticed that fuel prices going up again. That brings an increase of alternate fuel devices. Remember, improperly installed heating devices pose a greater threat of fire and carbon monoxide. Please check you smoke and carbon monoxide detectors monthly.

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

If anyone has question, concerns or comments about the Fire Department, please call or stop by.

REMEMBER, SMOKE DETECTORS SAVE LIVES AND HOUSE NUMBERS SAVE TIME!

### CALLS FOR SERVICE:

Building Fire	2	Arcing, Shorted Electrical Equip.	3
Outside Equipment Fire	2	Service Call, Other	3
Chimney or Flue Fire	1	Good Intent Call	2
Excessive Heat with no ignition	1	Water Problem, Other	1
Passenger Vehicle Fire	1	Assist Police or Other Gov. Agency	3
Brush / Grass Fire	1	Smoke Detector Activation-malfunction	2
Air or Gas Rupture	1	Unauthorized Burning	3
Rescue, EMS Incident, Other	2	Cover Assignment, Standby, Move up	21
Dispatched & Canceled En Route	1	Smoke or Odor Removal	5
EMS Call Excluding Motor Vehicle Acc	164	Authorized Controlled Burning	7
Motor Vehicle Accident w/ Injuries	7	Smoke Scare, Odor of Smoke	4
Motor Vehicle Accident w/ No Injuries	16	False Alarm / Alarm Unintentional	12
Chemical Hazard (no spill or leak)	1	Water or Steam Leak	2
Fuel Burner/Boiler Malfunction	1	Alarm System Sounded/Malfunction	8
Carbon Monoxide Detector Activation	1	Smoke Detector/Alarm-Unintentional	1
Lock in / Lock out	2	CO Detector Activation, Malfunction	1
Power Line Down	4	Gas Leak	1
Heat From Short Circuit	1	Water Evacuation	5

Total      **293**

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 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 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 1-800-498-6868 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).

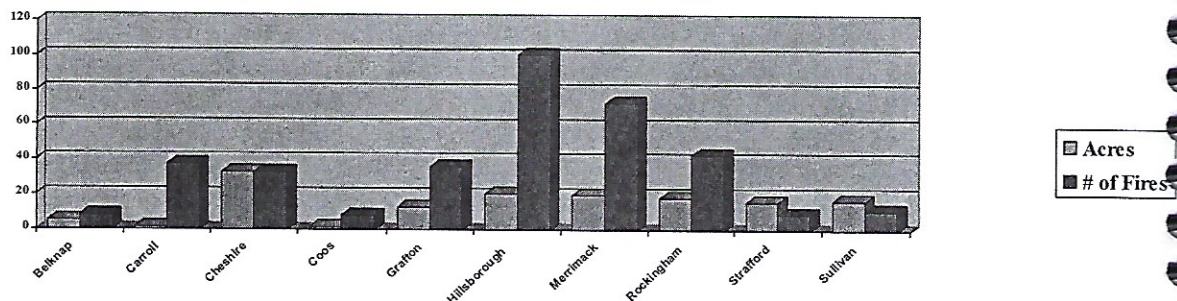
This past fire season had a slightly lower number of fires, as well as lower number of acres burned than the 5 year average. What made this fire season somewhat unusual was that it lasted most of the summer. New Hampshire typically has a fairly active spring fire season and then the summer rains tend to dampen fire activity later in the season. This year virtually all areas of the state had fires throughout the summer due to the periodic dry spells throughout the season. 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 contracted aircraft and the NH Civil Air Patrol when the fire danger was especially high. The largest fire for the season was 10.3 acre fire in Charlestown. 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 2010 season threatened structures, 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](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!

### 2010 FIRE STATISTICS

(All fires reported as of November 2010)

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

COUNTY STATISTICS		
County	Acres	# of Fires
Belknap	5	8
Carroll	1	38
Cheshire	33	33
Coos	1	8
Grafton	13	36
Hillsborough	21	101
Merrimack	20	73
Rockingham	18	43
Strafford	16	9
Sullivan	17	11





## CAUSES OF FIRES REPORTED

		Total Fires	Total Acres
Arson	3	2010 360	145
Debris	146	2009 334	173
Campfire	35	2008 455	175
Children	13	2007 437	212
Smoking	13	2006 500	473
Railroad	0		
Equipment	18		
Lightning	4		
Misc.*	128		

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

**ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT WILDLAND FIRE**

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

2010 started off with the Rain/Wind Storm which went from February to March. These two storms came with sever high winds, road closures, heavy rain, downed trees and power outages. The result of these storms was the town sustaining \$120,687.00 in damage. The Emergency Management Team worked closely with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Town Officials in regards to the Rain/Wind Storm which resulted in FEMA approving \$116,397.38. The difference in funds not approved was \$4,289.72.

As many know in order to receive any reimbursements from FEMA, all Town Departments must stay up to date with training and federal laws. The Town must stay within National Incident Management Systems (NIMS) compliance guidelines. Without any of these actions, retrieving grants and reimbursements would be unattainable.

Also in 2010, we were able to send our Emergency Management Director, Lawrence Foote to a one week training at the Emergency Management Higher Education Conference in Baltimore. There, Larry was able to gain hands on training directly with the FEMA Agency and fellow Emergency Management Directors as well as State Officials from Homeland Security. Our department believes in order to be sufficient in protecting our Residents in all emergencies, manmade and natural, we must be up to speed in all areas of training.

To end the year of 2010, we had a Northeaster/Blizzard. Due to our hard work and past experience working with Unitil and our Road Agent Department there were no incidents. The Town did not experience any power outages and there were no downed trees. Unitil and the Road Agent Department traveled around the Town and trimmed/cut trees to avoid power outages and downed trees. In the New Year we will continue these activities.

As we enter into 2011, we are awaiting final approval by the State for a \$26,000.00 grant. This grant will be used to supply Town Hall with an air conditioning system. In the upcoming year, our Department's primary goal is to prepare, respond, mitigate and recover from any town emergencies. We will continue our dedication to always being up to date with training and always being ready to act. We will be applying for more grants in 2011 for projects that are in the works.

In closing, the Emergency Management Department would like to thank the Residents and Town Officials for their continued support. It is because of this support that we can continue to be the best that we can be.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lawrence Foote  
Emergency Management Director

Michael Hughes  
Deputy Director of Emergency Management

Melissa Adams  
Clerical/Support Staff