

FIRE DEPARTMENT

To The Citizens and Taxpayers of Newton:

Can you believe it, it's time to write another year-end report. The past year was a fairly typical year, call volume did increase by 25% and there were 2 weather events, August's hurricane Irene and the October snow storm. As always, all town departments worked together to assist the citizens of Newton.

Last year was another Fire Chief Election year. The election was held in December with 2 candidates in vying the position. Unlike 3 years ago, when the vote was a tie; the vote was a majority with William Ingalls winning the vote of confidence for another 3 years. I'm going to take a new/old approach to the department by bringing back some of old firefighter values - "Pride, Honor and Integrity". With the help from fellow officers and firefighters, I believe this can happen.

Several years ago it was presented to the citizens, the need for increased space for Fire and Police in the form of Safety Complex. Although the warrant article failed, I still believe the majority of the people in town recognize the need for the added space. There is an article in this year's warrant to purchase the same piece of property that was proposed in 2006. I urge (beg) the citizens to please consider the passage of this article for Police and Fire. We allocate a substantial amount of money to educate our children because they are our future; they also are our future Firefighters and Policemen, so let's think of them.

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 Ingalls
Fire Chief

CALLS FOR SERVICE:

Building Fire	2	Arcing, Shorted Electrical Equip.	10
Fire, Other	2	Service Call, Other	3
Chimney or Flue Fire	1	Good Intent Call	6
Excessive Heat with no ignition	0	Water Problem, Other	2
Passenger Vehicle Fire	1	Assist Police or Other Gov. Agency	3
Brush / Grass Fire	4	Smoke Detector Activation-malfunction	2
Air or Gas Rupture	0	Unauthorized Burning	6
Rescue, EMS Incident, Other	2	Cover Assignment, Standby, Move up	25
Dispatched & Canceled En Route	2	Smoke or Odor Removal	6
EMS Call Excluding Motor Vehicle Acc	195	Authorized Controlled Burning	2
Motor Vehicle Accident w/ Injuries	12	Smoke Scare, Odor of Smoke	4
Motor Vehicle Accident w/ No Injuries	12	False Alarm / Alarm Unintentional	12
Chemical Hazard	4	Water or Steam Leak	0
Fuel Burner/Boiler Malfunction	0	Alarm System Sounded/Malfunction	29
Carbon Monoxide Detector Activation	4	Smoke Detector/Alarm-Unintentional	1
Lock in / Lock out	3	CO Detector Activation, Malfunction	1
Power Line Down	10	Gas Leak	1
Heat From Short Circuit	8	Water Evacuation	2

Total **377**

Service Calls Inc. Permits Aprox. 275

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 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.nhdfl.org.

Both in terms of the number of fires, as well as the number of acres burned, this past fire season was the smallest since records have been kept. Extensive rainfall virtually all season long kept the fire danger down. When fires did start they were kept very small. The largest fire for the season was only 5.4 acres which occurred in Littleton on May 2nd 2011. There was however a small window of high fire danger in the northern third of the state during July when little rainfall was recorded. During this time there were a number of lightning started fires which are fairly unusual in New Hampshire. As has been the case over the last few years, state budget constraints have limited the staffing of our statewide system of 16 fire

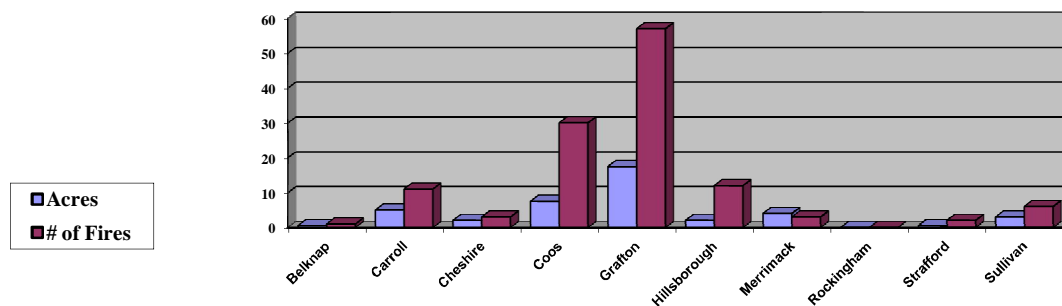
lookout towers to Class III or higher fire danger days. Despite the reduction in the number of days staffed, our fire lookouts are credited with keeping most fires small and saving several structures due to their quick and accurate spotting capabilities. The towers fire spotting was supplemented by contracted aircraft and the NH Civil Air Patrol when the fire danger was especially high. 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 2011 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. Please help Smokey Bear, your local fire department, and the state's Forest Rangers by being fire wise and fire safe!

2011 FIRE STATISTICS

(All fires reported as of November 2011)

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

COUNTY STATISTICS		
County	Acres	# of Fires
Belknap	.5	1
Carroll	5	11
Cheshire	2	3
Coos	7.5	30
Grafton	17.5	57
Hillsborough	2	12
Merrimack	4	3
Rockingham	0	0
Strafford	.5	2
Sullivan	3	6



CAUSES OF FIRES REPORTED

		Total	Fires	Total Acres
Arson	7	2011	125	42
Debris	63	2010	360	145
Campfire	10	2009	334	173
Children	2	2008	455	175
Smoking	9	2007	437	212
Railroad	1			
Equipment	1			
Lightning	3			
Misc.*	29			

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

ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT WILDLAND FIRE