

FIRE DEPARTMENT

To The Citizens and Taxpayers of Newton:

In 2014, the Fire Department saw the retirement of two long-time members, Chief William Ingalls with 50 years of service and Captain William Higgins with 28 years of service. Replacing the void created by the retirement of Chief Ingalls is Chief John Alcainho. Chief Alcainho came on in December and is the former Fire Chief of Dartmouth District One in Massachusetts. He has 33 years of experience in the fire service.

The Newton Fire Department consists of 30 Paid-on-Call professionals staffing two fire stations, Central Fire Station located at 35 South Main Street and the Newton Junction Station located at 29 West Main Street. The members of the department respond to all fire incidents, EMS calls and also provide Fire Prevention courses for the residents.

There were no major incidents during the year however we did see an increase in call volume of 20-25%, with just under 300 calls for the year.

Once again, we are asking the town voters to support a fire department warrant article for the purchase of a 3,000 gallon tanker truck. The department has the majority of the money through its Capital Reserve Fund but needs a minimal amount (compared to the total cost) for the purchase. This will replace our 1983 tanker, which has been out of service since March 2014. The purchase of this tanker will give us an additional 3,000 gallons of water to use in the event of a fire. This is an important factor because Newton does not have a municipal water system with pressurized fire hydrants.

On a safety note, the Fire Department would like 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](tel:603-382-8811). This could save someone's life!

In closing, we would like to thank the citizens and taxpayers 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 and officers (past and present) of this department for your 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 in to the Central Fire Station during normal business hours. You can also follow us on Facebook, 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 SAVE TIME! IN AN EMERGENCY, CALL 911. PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE FIRE STATION FOR EMERGENCIES.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert P. Zalenski,
Fire Department Administrator

FIRE DEPARTMENT CALLS FOR SERVICE - 2014

Building Fire	2	Arcing, Shorted Electrical Equip.	1
Fire, Other	2	Service Call, Other	1
Chimney or Flue Fire	2	Good Intent Call	7
Excessive Heat with no ignition	0	Water Problem, Other	0
Passenger Vehicle Fire	2	Assist Police or Other Gov. Agency	3
Brush / Grass Fire	2	Smoke Detector Activation-malfunction	5
Dumpster / Outside Trash	0	Unauthorized Burning	3
Rescue, EMS Incident, Other	16	Cover Assignment, Standby, Move up	11
Dispatched & Canceled En Route	1	Smoke or Odor Removal	5
EMS Call Excluding Motor Vehicle Acc	183	Authorized Controlled Burning	2
Motor Vehicle Accident w/ Injuries	9	Smoke Scare, Odor of Smoke	2
Motor Vehicle Accident w/ No Injuries	3	False Alarm / Alarm Unintentional	2
Chemical Hazard	2	Water or Steam Leak	2
Fuel Burner/Boiler Malfunction	0	Alarm System Sounded/Malfunction	4
Carbon Monoxide Detector Activation	2	Smoke Detector/Alarm-Unintentional	4
Lock in / Lock out	2	CO Detector Activation, Malfunction	4
Power Line Down	5	Gas Leak	1
Heat From Short Circuit	0	Water Evacuation	2
		Incident Total:	292
		Service Calls including Fire Permits, Aprox.	200
		Total:	492

Respectfully submitted,
Robert P. Zalenski
Fire Department Administrator

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.nhdf.org.

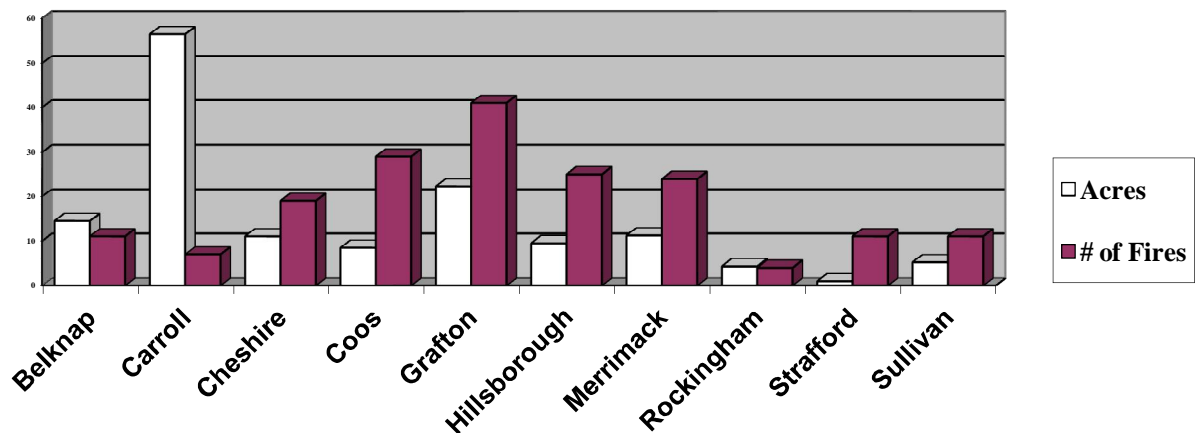
This past fire season started in early April with the first reported fire on April 7th. April, which is the traditional start to our spring fire season, began very dry with unseasonably dry conditions continuing through the entire month. This dry pattern continued through the first half of May. 80% of our reported fires this season occurred during this six week period. The largest fire was 24 acres, occurring in the town of Tamworth. From mid May through early September, above average rainfall kept our total acreage burned statewide at 72 acres. This is the smallest amount of acreage burned statewide in several years. Late August through late September though brought a dry trend to northern areas, resulting in several deep-burning remote fires. Our 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 2014 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!

2014 FIRE STATISTICS

(All fires reported as of November 2014)

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

COUNTY STATISTICS		
County	Acres	# of Fires
Belknap	3.1	5
Carroll	24	4
Cheshire	6.8	7
Coos	5.3	18
Grafton	8.2	32
Hillsborough	6.1	20
Merrimack	15.5	11
Rockingham	1.1	8
Strafford	0.4	5
Sullivan	1.5	2



CAUSES OF FIRES REPORTED		Total	Fires	Total Acres
Arson	2	2014	112	72
Debris	52	2013	182	144
Campfire	10	2012	318	206
Children	2	2011	125	42
Smoking	5	2010	360	145
Railroad	0			
Equipment	5			
Lightning	1			
Misc.*	35 (*Misc.: power lines, fireworks, electric fences, etc.)			

ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT WILDLAND FIRE

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

2014 was a good year for our residents. There were no major incidents that occurred which is always a good place to be in. The town did see some small scale power outages, the longest outage lasted approximately four hours. The Town and its employee's will continue to keep up the good work in 2015.

I believe that in Emergency Management, one should always be proactive and not reactive. By doing this, the Town faces no incidents, and when we do face one, we are prepared to deal with it. The Emergency Management Department has obtained a Homeland Security Grant which will be used to update the Emergency Operations Plan. In 2015, the department will apply for a Grant that can be used to update the Hazardous Mitigation Plan.

In 2014 the Seabrook Power Plant had their bi-annual drill with the Federal Government. I am pleased to say that the Emergency Response Team that our Town had in place that day did a wonderful job and achieved a score of an A+ from the State and Federal Government. I would like to thank each and every one of you that were a part of this drill and for making it so successful for our Town.

The Emergency Management Department will continue to apply for grants from the State as needed in 2015. If approved, some of these Grants will be used to update some of our equipment. We will also be using the Grants for training purposes as well.

The Emergency Management Department strives to be a great resource for our residents. If you have any questions regarding emergency preparedness, what to do when an event is approaching or have any other general questions or needs, please feel free to reach out to us. Along with the Local Emergency Planning Committee we promise to serve the Town of Newton and its residents to the best of our ability and look forward to serving you in the upcoming year.

Respectfully submitted,
Lawrence Foote
Emergency Management Director

GALE LIBRARY REPORT

We have had another busy year filled with activities and programs for all age groups. It is very gratifying and rewarding for all of us here to serve as your public library. We strive to offer programming and materials for the collection that would be of wide appeal to varied interests. (Please refer to the statistical report for a listing of library programs, acquisitions, and usage over the year.)

Thank you to the many community members who voted in favor of Warrant Article 6 on March 11, 2014. Your support is respectfully acknowledged and appreciated!

The Friends of the Gale Library have been of great assistance to provide services and the additional needs of the library. In January, the Friends purchased two new HP desktop computer systems with Windows 8 operating system. We have all learned to navigate along within the system by practice and periodic technology workshops.

They have also held book sales, bake sales, offered discounted movie packages, offered discounted entrance fees to York's Wild Animal Kingdom, sold t-shirts, held their annual Christmas basket raffle, and much more. This year, the Friends and Library Trustees also represented the library during Newton Town Day in September. We are very grateful for all they do to promote the library with their enthusiasm and kindness!

A donation of an automated external defibrillator was received this summer from the Newton Fire Department. Thank you to Fire Chief Ingalls for providing this safety device for our visitors. Staff members attended AED/CPR classes in July and First Aid classes in August with Michael Giordano. The device is centrally located near the fire alarm panel box for ease of accessibility.

Building maintenance projects completed this year include the addition of two new energy efficient air conditioners, an upgrade of electrical service to 200 amp, the installation of a new LED outside lamp in the parking area, a hot water heater replacement, carpet cleaning, painting projects, landscaping projects, routine maintenance, and other various projects throughout the year. A structural engineer was consulted in November to inspect the fire exit stairway to ensure the integrity of the unit. It was necessary to discontinue usage of the second floor until the recommended repairs could be made.

A reminder that our online catalog can be located at: <https://galelibrary.follettdestiny.com>. Renewals and holds may be placed remotely and is available at any time.

Downloadable eBooks and audio books may be found at: <http://nh.lib.overdrive.com>. Please contact us for your prefix number to log in.

For those who research genealogy, an online subscription to Ancestry Library edition can be located at: <http://www.ancestrylibrary.com>.

A link to your potential savings by visiting your local library: <http://nhlibrarians.org/calculator>.

We look forward to your next visit to browse our collection of books, movies, an Orion Starblast Telescope, music, magazines, cake pans and more! On behalf of everyone here at the Gale Library, have a joyful year in 2015!

Respectfully submitted,
Theresa E. Caswell, Library Director

Marilyn Landry, Chairperson
Anne Banks, Secretary
Kathy Meserve, Treasurer

Sally Woodman, Alternate
Lynne Camp, Alternate

Gale Library Board of Trustees

Library Statistics – 2014

TOTAL REGISTERED USERS 4,874
Total Library Visitors 10,539

TOTAL CIRCULATION: 28,016

Adult Fiction	5,107	Juvenile Fiction	2,552
Adult Non Fiction	1,776	Juvenile Non Fiction	570
Periodicals	2,124	Graphic Novels	167
NH OverDrive Downloadable Books	1,839	Early Reader Fiction	6,060
Cake Pans	14	Early Reader Non Fiction	500
VHS	62	Audio Books	497
CDs	391	MP3 Audio Books	7
DVDs	6,195	Miscellaneous Materials	6
Games	149		

USAGE OF EQUIPMENT: 16,503

Museum Passes	57	Meeting Room Use	692
Internet Access/Productivity	8,564		
Electronic Databases	7,882		

INTERLIBRARY LOAN: 976

Books borrowed from NH Libraries: 410
Books loaned to other NH Libraries: 566 *figure already included in circulation #

TOTAL CIRCULATION & USAGE: 44,519

NOTE: The second floor was not accessible for a partial month in November and for a full month in December.

BOOKS ADDED: 1,308

Gifts/Donations: 180
Reference: 11
Purchased: 1,117

AUDIO/VISUAL ADDED 376

Audio books 36
CDs: 45
DVDs: 291
Miscellaneous 4

2014 LIBRARY PROGRAMS

Wii/Board Game Nights
Book Review Circle (2 Groups)
Evening Story Hours
Angel Tree
School Outreach Programs
Read Across America
Financial Planning Workshop
Movie Matinees
Friends' Holiday Basket Raffle

Seasonal Crafts
First Graders' Night
Young Adult Activities
Story Hours
Art Exhibits
Summer/Winter Reading Programs
Cribbage
A Garden for Wildlife Program
Friends' Trick or Treat Party

2014 LIBRARY PROGRAMS continued

Bingo for Books
Chef Joy Cooking Presentations
International Dot Day
Game Nights for Teens
Read Across America
Fine Free Month
Doll Tea Party
Growums Gardening Workshop
Open Mic Night
Natural Ornament Workshop
Take Your Child to the Library Day
Hair Wraps
Rainbow Loom Workshops
Ragtime Women Musical Presentation
Seasonal Tablescapes Workshop

National Game Day
Star Wars Read Day
Friends' Tea Party
Pumpkin Carving Night
Consumer Fraud Program
Yarn Club
Holiday Cookie Swap
Technology Workshops
Library Card Party
Button Collecting Workshop
Health/Fitness Workshops
Carol and Crew Puppet Workshop
Tiger Scouts Visit
Drop Everything and Read Day
Polar Express Storyhour

SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Fizz, Boom, Read!

Magician Peter Boie
Thaumatrope
Nail Art
Grossology 101
NHSPCA Visit
LEGO® Building Workshop
Museum of Science Reptile Program

Edible Books
Bubbles and Blobs
Minecraft/Pokemon Game Nights
Fizz Boom Rockets
College Planning Workshops
Mariposa Museum Chocolate Program
Ice Cream Party

STAFF ACTIVITIES

Meetings Attended

92

Library Use Value Calculator:

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

Respectfully submitted,
Theresa E. Caswell
Library Director