Farmington Fire and Rescue
2014 Report

Farmington Fire & Rescue had a busy and productive 2014. As I'm sure you are all aware, this year we had a transition to Chief Pete Lamb. During the transition the three Deputy Chief's did a great job keeping the station functioning to an exceptional level and made the transition to the new Chief an easy one on the staff and Town.

This year we accomplished a lot of upgrades and improvements around the station. The building was painted and several trees were removed around the property. Maintenance and repairs were done to several pieces of equipment. A full inventory and analysis was done of all the equipment. The Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBAs) were updated. Maintenance was conducted on the medical defibrillators that are carried on the ambulances. Surplus and out dated equipment was donated to a local Fire Service Technical School for training.

A big goal of the department this year was fiscal review. We were able to implement several systems and tracking devices to institute a new and improved EMS billing procedure which will enable us to track EMS calls more accurately than prior years. We now have the ability to keep tabs on our revenue and call volume more closely. We were able to develop a more realistic operating budget this year based on actual revenue and expenses.

In 2014, we worked with the Board of Selectmen on the future public safety building plans as well. Emergency Management areas were reviewed for compliance with the State and Federal Requirements. As a result the Emergency Operations and Hazard Mitigation Plans were reviewed and will be updated in 2015 with a assistance of a state grant for plan maintenance.

5 Year Review of Call Volume

Year	Total Calls	EMS	Fire
2010	1311	972	339
2011	1238	861	377
2012	1416	943	473
2013	1269	885	401
2014	1356	1083	273

Mutual Aid Call Volume 2014

Towns	Aid Given	Aid Received
Acton	1	0
Alton	5	2
Barnstead	0	1
DHART	0	1
New Durham	40	8
Frisbie Hospital Medics	111	274
Gilmanton	0	1
Middleton	37	4

Milton	33	16
Rochester	35	19
Somersworth	1	0
Strafford	1	2
Wakefield	0	3
Wolfeboro	0	1
TOTAL	**268**	**336**

Report of Forest Fire Warden and State Forest Ranger

Locally, Farmington Fire and Rescue personnel issued 311 burn permits in accordance with the State requirements for the year 2014.

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 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 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 wild land urban interface, which is the area where homes and flammable wild land 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 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.
Please help Smokey Bear, your local fire department, and the state's Forest Rangers by being fire wise and fire safe!

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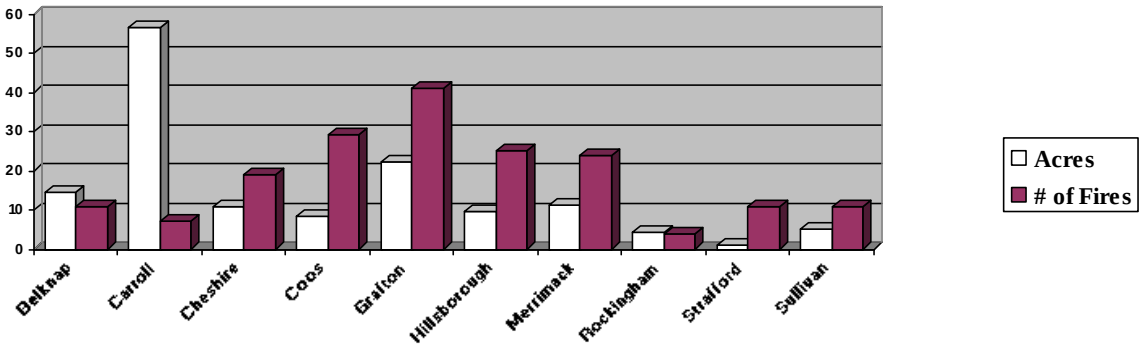
2014 FIRE STATISTICS

(All fires reported as of November 2014)

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

In summary, I would like to thank the officers and members of Farmington Fire –Rescue, the Chief and officers of the Farmington Police Department, the crew members of Public Works, the Town administrator, the Board of Selectman, members of the three schools, and you the residents and guest of the Town of Farmington for making the transition of being the new chief to and effective working relationships. I look forward to continued progress in working for the Town of Farmington.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chief Pete Lamb