



New Jersey 2017 Chapter Report

The 2017 fire season started early this year by the beginning of March the fire towers throughout the state were being staffed. This year was a bit different that we did not get a snow pack so it was 1st weekend in March towers were staffed on and off during spring fire season, during the summer it was quiet just a few days when we hit a class 2 day. When the fall fire season we went in to the 1st week of December before the rains came and dropped the fire danger down to a class 1. The NJ Forest Fire Service still maintains and staff 21 fire towers. Currently the state has 6 full time fire observers, and towers that do not have a full time observer assigned to them have a part timer staff that tower as needed. This yr the state Forest Fire Service lost a full time observer as he retired after 31 yrs as a fire tower observer. He is planning on coming back as a part timer to staff his old tower as needed. Last year Bob Wolff staffed Catfish tower in the Delaware Gap National Recreation Area along the Appalachian Trail. Last year he had 1330 visitors in to the tower while he was staffing it this year he tried to hit over a 1000 again but got up to 950 visitors we see what the 2018 fire season brings and see how many visitors will show up to Catfish tower in 2018. The NJ chapter has 31 members and 1 comp and as of 12-31-17 we had \$347.63 in the state's account

Submitted by

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