



NJ 2019 Chapter Report

Membership

27 members

15 plus members

1 comp

Financial

As of 12/31/19 \$428.27

NJ is still maintaining 21 towers throughout the state with 7 in the north 8 in the central part of the state and 6 in the south. This year towers went up in late March and were staffed on and off till May when the trees leafed out and the spring fire threat dropped to a class 1 fire danger. The summer was quiet and towers were not staffed until Sept for the fall fire season and worked on and off in to Nov. The 2019 season the towers were staffed 45 days in the north and a bit more days in central and southern part of the state as the soil content is sandy and does not take much time for the fire danger to bounce from low up to moderate after a rain storm. Most of the towers in the state are staffed by full time tower operator if they are not in their assigned towers they are back at the assigned Division offices doing maintenance on equipment or trucks or could be

doing trail work or repair work on the fire towers. Div A in the north has 1 full time tower operator and had 3 part time operators to staff towers. Currently 1 tower is out of service since super storm sandy that that knocked down power lines and poles to the tower so the state is currently trying to work out a solution to get power back to that tower. The other towers were not used this season but was ready to go if need. Div B in central part of the state has 5 tower operator and try to use part timers to staff the other 3 towers in that division. Division C in the south has 3 tower operators and utilize 3 part timers to staff the other 3 towers.

With budget cuts in the state and the state Fire warden has decided for the future not to hire anymore full time tower operators but just rely on part timers to staff the towers. So if a full time operator retires or moves up to a different position the state will not fill that position with a full time operator but will staff that tower with a part timer.

Submitted

Bob Wolff director

Ray Grimes Jr. co director