

New Hampshire Chapter, FFLA 2017 Report

The New Hampshire Chapter of the FFLA started and ended the year with 19 paid members and 2 complimentary members. The year started with five Plus members and 14 regular members. NH Chapter Charter member Candy Mellett passed away in February after a courageous battle with COPD. One member chose not to renew. Two regular members renewed as Plus members and two new members joined, one Plus and one regular thus at year end there are eight Plus members and eleven regular members.

There were no FFLA activities during the year although my wife and I accompanied Eastern Deputy Director Mark Haughwout on a visit to Green Mountain tower to see the work done by the State a few years ago.

Fire activity was low in New Hampshire during the year. Abundant spring and early summer rain ended drought conditions that developed in 2016 and reduced fire activity. As late as August only 23 fires had occurred which burned 23 acres.

During the summer and into the autumn both the State and the White Mountain National Forest sent crews and single resources west to help suppress fires. White Mountain National Forest Engine E-601, a type 6 engine did three successive two week details during the summer in Arizona and Nevada then was sent out again to Montana for a month. In December a fire crew from New England comprised of eleven fire fighters from New Hampshire traveled to California to help suppress the Thomas Fire.

After dry weather at the end of the summer into September fire activity picked up in October. In particular a fire start on a cliff top above the Lost River Caverns west of North Woodstock ended up burning for most of the month. The fire was on cliffs, ledges and steep boulder strewn slopes which made suppression difficult. State, local and White Mountain National Forest personnel fought this fire which spread onto Forest Service land. The fire was finally contained at about 70 acres (30 acres Forest Service, 40 acres private land) then abundant rains late in the month put an end to the fire.

For 2017, New Hampshire had 32 fires which burned 83 acres, while the White Mountain National Forest had four fires which burned 40 acres.