



## NEW JERSEY 2012 CHAPTER REPORT

MEMBERS- 24 Paid 1 Comp

FINANCIAL - as of 12-31-12 \$152.64

The New Jersey State Forest Fire Service maintains and operates 21 Fire Towers. The 2012 season started early with no snow pack a few towers were in service in January for a few days. The spring was very busy time with fire danger getting up in to class 3 and 4 days. By April there were fire restrictions being enforced and there were about 5-6 red flag days compared to the usual 1-2 we get during the yr. At one point towers in the state were going up at 10 am and being staffed till dark around 8 pm. The spring fire season ended late April early May when we started getting the spring rains. The rest of the season was average; towers were staffed as needed in the summer and a few days in the fall until hurricane sandy blew in late Oct early Nov. The towers in central and southern part of the state were checked after sandy were fine with no damage. The only problems was electric and ph service being disrupted and the state is working to get that restored before fire season. The state Forest Fire Service has full time tower operators when they are not in their towers they are in the division shops working on equipment or doing trail work. With budgets being what it is the state only has 6 full time tower operators per each division and the rest of the towers are being staffed by part timers like crew members, deputy wardens and district warden when they can. The full timers are going up on class 2 days and part timers start staffing at class 3 days depending on each division objective.

There has been talk in our state office to install camera to look for fires. At this time it has been put on hold do the fact it costs \$ and the budget cannot handle that expense. I hope the state does some research before deciding to install cameras to look for smokes.

OBJECTIVES- To try to visit all state towers re photograph them and recheck the coordinates.

Submitted- Ray Grimes Jr. NJ Co Director