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Maine Forest Service Fire Tower Visitor Information, 1989

Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Maine Forest Service

Maine Department of Conservation

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Fire Towers... Conservation Symbols

For most of this century, forest fire detection towers have symbolized forest conservation and fire prevention from mountain tops throughout the nation. In Maine, where America's first fire tower was built on Squaw Mountain near Greenville in 1905, fire towers are part of a system protecting 17 million acres of forest land from wildfire.

The number of Maine fire towers peaked in 1966 when 103 were in operation. With the development of aircraft fire detection methods, the number of active fire towers has declined and today, twenty - seven are active.

The men and women who climb to work in fire towers during Maine's forest fire season, are trained to make systematic observations of the tower's "domain", searching for "smokes". These watchpersons must be able to distinguish between "friendly" smokes originating from mills or incinerators and an "unfriendly" smoke, perhaps created by an uncontrolled forest fire. When an unfriendly smoke is spotted, its location is reported to firefighters on the ground.

Continued ...

In addition to spotting fires, fire towers also provide vital communication assistance by relaying radio messages for municipal fire departments and Forest Service Rangers.

Visitors are welcome at the Maine Forest Service Fire Towers listed in this folder when fire hazard conditions permit. We have prepared this list because some towers are located on private land where visitors cannot be accommodated due to landowner requirements.

If you plan to visit a tower, we suggest you call ahead to make arrangements. Warm clothing and shoes suitable for climbing are essential for a visit safe and comfortable.

Welcome and enjoy the view.

Cover Photo : Little's Mt. Tower in Edmunds Township, Washington, County. The original 40 foot wooden tower is visible in the photo beneath the steel structure which replaced it in 1963. The Sunken Stream Fire, which threatened the Town of Whiting in April, 1985 was detected and reported from this tower.

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Maine Forest Service
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
State House Station 22, Augusta
Maine 04333

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Maine Forest Service Fire Towers

<i>TOWN</i>	<i>TOWER NAME</i>	<i>HEIGHT</i>	<i>ELEVATION</i>	<i>TELEPHONE</i>	<i>ACCESS</i>	<i>MAP*</i>
BUCKFIELD	Streaked Mt.	37	1,807	743-2731	One mile walk	11
CANAAN	Chase Hill	60	840	938-4878	Drive to tower	21
DENMARK	Pleasant Mt.	48	2,055	935-2403	Walk one mile	4
DIXMONT	Harris Mt.	43	1,233	234-2535	Walk two miles	22
JEFFERSON	Mountain Hill	50	493	549-5300	Drive to tower	50
MONTVILLE	Frye Mt.	20	1159	342-5110	One-third mile walk	14
NEW GLOUCESTER	Opportunity	50	570	926-4531	Drive to tower	5
SANFORD	Mt. Hope	50	730	324-3961	Drive to tower	2
TOPSHAM	Mt. Ararat	50	255	725-7321	Drive to tower	6
WATERBORO	Ossipee Mt.	25	1,075	247-4158	Drive to tower	2
WINTHROP	Mt. Pisgah	60	840	247-4158	One mile walk	12
YORK	Mt. Agamenticus	60	752	646-2311	Drive to tower	1

**The Maine Atlas and Gazetteer*