



Yadkin County Fire Marshal's Office

THE FLAME

Emergency Services News Letter



/// FIRE LINE - DO NOT CROSS /// FIRE LINE - DO NOT CROSS /// FIRE LINE - DO NOT CROSS ///

JUNE, 2006

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Protecting Your Home from Wildfire**
- **NIMS Training**
- **Lighting Safety Awareness Week**

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Downed Power Line Sparks Woods Fire

In less than a month, a second major woods fire strikes the Fall Creek fire district. The fire was reported at 1:19 pm on April 1, 2006. According to Fire Chief Derrick Hobson, approximately 80 personnel responded to the 21 acre woods fire off of Martin's Mill Road which was the result of a downed power line. Firefighters from Yadkin County and one Surry County fire department responded.

Dry conditions and gusty winds increased the rapid spread of the fire. Winds gusts of 18 mph and a humidity level of 9.5 % were recorded during the time of the fire at the NC Forest Service office in Yadkinville.

The North Carolina Forest Service response included a plow unit and a observation plane. The Yadkin Co. EMS, Rescue Squad and American Red Cross also responded to the scene.

The NC Forest Service was back on the scene Sunday to continue mop up operations of the fire.



Woods Fire on Martin's Mill Road

Jeff Higgins, County Ranger Retires

Jeff Higgins, County Ranger with the NC Forest Service retired April 30, 2006 after thirty two years and eight months of service. Jeff started his career back in 1973 as the Assistant County Ranger. During his career, Jeff has worked many of the major disasters throughout the United States. A few of these were; the Western and Texas wildfires, the Blizzard of 1993, Hurricanes Andrew, Hugo, Floyd

and Katrina, several Tornados and the Columbia Shuttle Recovery. Jeff has been very instrumental in obtaining grants monies for the fire departments and in implementing the Incident Command system here in Yadkin County.



Jeff says the friends and memories he has acquired along the way is "Priceless". We would like to congratulate Jeff on his retirement and wish him the best of luck.

Fire Safety



The US Fire Administration says that Americans over the age of 65 are one of the groups at greatest risk of dying in a fire. On average, more than 900 Americans 65 and over die in fires. People over the age of 85 die in fires at a rate five times higher than the rest of the population.

Why Are Older People At Risk?

- They may be less able to take the quick action necessary in a fire emergency.
- They may be on medication that affects their ability to make quick decisions.
- Many older people live alone and when accidents happen others may not be around to help.

Source: US Fire Administration

“Cooking accidents are the leading cause of fire related injuries for older Americans.”

NC Forest Service Burning Permits



Get Your Burning Permits Online

www.dfr.state.nc.us

Upcoming Events / Deadlines

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| • Fire Chief's Association Meeting - Forbush VFD | July 5, 2006 |
| • 1st Responder Committee Meeting - Yadkin Campus SCC | July 19, 2006 |
| • Fire & Rescue Association Meeting - Arlington VFD | July 20, 2006 |



Rescue Squad Purchases Cub Cadet Rescue Vehicle

The Yadkin County Rescue Squad recently purchased a Cub Cadet 6x4 Rescue Vehicle. The bed has a jump seat for a medic, an area to securely hold a Stokes Basket and a storage compartment. The vehicle is also outfitted with a roll bar, red light and action area light. The squad will be using the vehicle for off-road rescues and at major standbys where vehicle access is difficult. The vehicle will also be available to assist at wildland fire incidents. Funding for the vehicle came through the OSFM matching grant process and the Yadkin County Rescue Squad Auxiliary.



Yadkin Co. Fire Departments - Receives State Grants

In 1988 the General Assembly created the Fire Grant Fund to help volunteer fire departments raise money for equipment and supplies. The funds are matching grants, the state matches dollar-for-dollar, up to an approved amount. The following departments received the 2006 Volunteer Fire Department Fund.

Courtney Vol. Fire Department	\$6,670.00
Jonesville Vol. Fire Department	\$9,885.99
Lone Hickory Vol. Fire Department	\$11,844.50
Fall Creek Vol. Fire Department	\$11,975.00

Drink Up Boys

Donnie Martin, EMT-P Supervisor



Summer is approaching with those long hot and humid days. People will be out enjoying their outdoor activities, some will be working outdoors or playing in the heat and humidity and then there are those structure and woods fires to contend with.

Staying hydrated during this time of year is important as some of us are walking around in a mild state of dehydration to begin with. A lot of people do not take in enough fluids through out the day to keep up with the fluid loss that occurs during hot and humid weather. When was the last time you drank 16 -20 oz. of water? Not coffee, tea, or a soft drink, but good ole water.

When you are at a structure fire or woods fire for example, your body temperature will increase by your work load, and the environment you are in. Add to that the protective clothing you are wearing and you have a recipe for a serious problem. You are sweating profusely and can not cool off as fast as the heat is being produced.

Dehydration is defined as the excessive loss of water from the body. These losses occur from urination, breathing, and of course what we all do a lot of and that is sweat. So just how much water do you need to take in on a daily basis? Mom was right when she told you to drink four 8 oz. glasses of water each day, that's a quart or 1 liter - that big bag of fluid in the EMS units. However, persons require 2 - 3 times this much each day to off set the losses.

So let's take a look at what can happen to you the firefighter on that big structure fire or woods fire in July heat and humidity. First, and you have felt this before, you feel like you are about to roast. You can't seem to get cool enough no matter what you do. Remember you are working hard in that turn out gear or humping up that hill in wild land gear and your body is producing more and more heat. You are sweating bullets and your skin is red and hot. Sound familiar? Now later on you begin to feel thirsty and getting tired and even somewhat ill tempered - maybe because you are missing super. Now you may have problems paying attention and staying alert and then comes that old pounding headache. Depending on how hard and how long you are there you can loose as much as 1.5 liters of sweat per hour. That big bag again. So by this time you are really thirsty and want some water so you won't get dehydrated but you are already there. The excitement of the fire causes the brain to release chemicals that dampen the thirst mechanism so by the time you really feel thirsty you are already behind. It is not at all uncommon for a firefighter to loose 5% of their body weight, and on big operations can loose 10%, which is a very serious problem.



So what do you do to fix it. The absolute best thing is to prevent it. That means staying well hydrated throughout the day and when on a fire, make sure that you have plenty of water and other fluids on scene and DRINK. Go to the rehab area and cool off, drink the fluids slowly and let the Medics check you out and cool you down. Drink even if you are not thirsty to stay ahead of any fluid loss. Now comes the big question. Which is best water or sports drinks? In the immediate term you can't beat good ole water. However if there for an extended time or if you just don't like plain water the sports drinks are perfectly fine, just remember to try and drink it slow because the sugar content can make some people sick if they chug it down. These replace electrolytes to your system and can help avoid cramping.

Make sure you feel well enough before going back on the line and remember to stay hydrated. We have all seen people go down from the heat on drills and real events so avoid this often very serious problem. Stay hydrated, your body will thank you. So bottoms up boys, drink up and stay healthy.

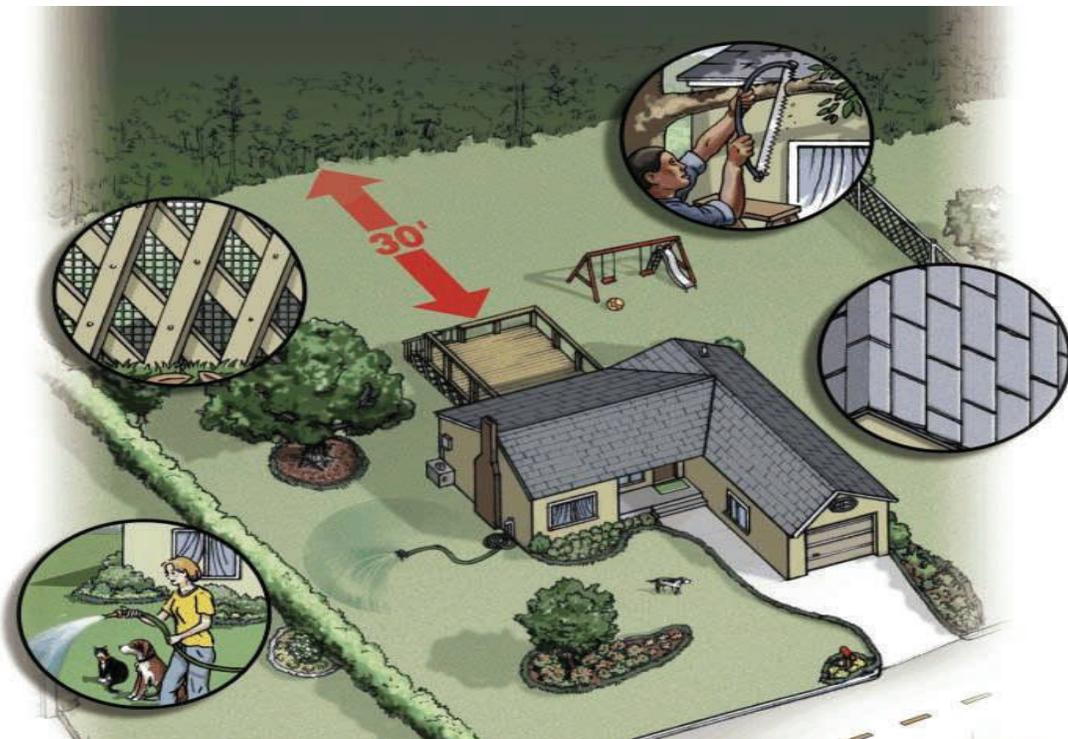
Protecting Your Home from Wildfire

BE “FIREWISE”

Many people are beginning to build homes in wooded areas to live in a natural setting. One thing they don't realize is that their home may be at risk of exposure to wildfire. Their surroundings they build in are a fuel source for wildfires. One thing you can do to reduce the risk for wildfire is to create a “survivable space” around your home. A “survivable space” is an area of at least 30 feet around your home that is clear of dead vegetation and debris that will easily burn. The amount of space would depend on the slope of the terrain and could be much greater in some cases. Here are just a few landscape practices that can reduce exposure to wildfire.

- Remove dead leaves, limbs and other debris from around your home.
- Reduce the density of the surrounding forest.
- Keep firewood 30 feet or more from your home.
- Trim branches and prune trees to 10 feet above the ground.
- Keep roofs and gutters clear of leaves and other debris.

For more information on FIREWISE, you can go to the website; www.ncfirewise.org.



NIMS Training Guideline Requirements

All personnel with a direct role in emergency preparedness, incident management or response must complete this training. The NIMS IS-700, is a web-based awareness level course that explains NIMS components, concepts and principles. To take the course online go to <http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/IS/is700.asp>.

NIMS Training Guideline

<p>Federal/State/Local/Tribal/Private Sector & Non-governmental personnel to include:</p> <p><i>Entry level first responders & disaster workers</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Medical Service personnel • Firefighters • Hospital staff • Law Enforcement personnel • Public Health personnel • Public Works/Utility personnel • Skilled Support Personnel • Other emergency management response, support, volunteer personnel at all levels 	<p>FEMA IS-700: NIMS, An Introduction</p> <p>ICS-100: Introduction to ICS or equivalent</p>
<p>Federal/State/Local/Tribal/Private Sector & Non-governmental personnel to include:</p> <p><i>First line supervisors, single resource leaders, field supervisors, and other emergency management/response personnel that require a higher level of ICS/NIMS Training.</i></p>	<p>FEMA IS-700: NIMS, An Introduction</p> <p>ICS-100: Introduction to ICS or equivalent</p> <p>ICS-200: Basic ICS or equivalent</p>
<p>Federal/State/Local/Tribal/Private Sector & Non-governmental personnel to include:</p> <p><i>Middle management including strike team leaders, task force leaders, unit leaders, division/group supervisors, branch directors, and multi-agency coordination system/emergency operations center staff.</i></p>	<p>FEMA IS-700: NIMS, An Introduction</p> <p>FEMA IS-800: National Response Plan (NRP), An Introduction*</p> <p>ICS-100: Introduction to ICS or equivalent</p> <p>ICS-200: Basic ICS or equivalent</p> <p>ICS-300: Intermediate ICS or equivalent (FY07 Requirement)</p>
<p>Federal/State/Local/Tribal/Private Sector & Non-governmental personnel to include:</p> <p><i>Command and general staff, select department heads with multi-agency coordination system responsibilities, area commanders, emergency managers, and multi-agency coordination system/emergency operations center managers.</i></p>	<p>FEMA IS-700: NIMS, An Introduction</p> <p>FEMA IS-800: National Response Plan (NRP), An Introduction*</p> <p>ICS-100: Introduction to ICS or equivalent</p> <p>ICS-200: Basic ICS or equivalent</p> <p>ICS-300: Intermediate ICS or equivalent (FY07 Requirement)</p> <p>ICS-400: Advanced ICS or equivalent (FY07 Requirement)</p>

4th of July, Keep it Safe:

Fireworks Facts



The 4th of July is a time for celebration, but most people don't realize that most fireworks are illegal in North Carolina and that penalties for breaking this law include fines up to \$500 and jail time. Not only are most fireworks illegal, but they also cause many injuries such as; eye damage, burns and scars. Also, fireworks are responsible for many fires each year.



Any fireworks that explode, spin, leave the ground or fly through the air are illegal in North Carolina. Examples of illegal fireworks include firecrackers, ground spinners, roman candles, bottle rockets and mortars. Purchasing fireworks from other states that are banned and bringing them into North Carolina is illegal.



Legal fireworks include sparklers, fountains, glow worms and snap pops. Even these legal fireworks are dangerous and cause many injuries each year. For example, sparklers can burn as hot as 1,200 degrees F.

Safety Tips:

- ⇒ Fireworks should be handled by responsible adults.
- ⇒ Read the directions before attempting to light the fireworks.
- ⇒ Never attempt to make your own fireworks.
- ⇒ Never point fireworks at people, pets and buildings.
- ⇒ Never use fireworks indoors and keep away from dry grass and wooded areas.
- ⇒ Have a hose or bucket of water nearby in case of an emergency.

One sure way to enjoy fireworks is to attend a professional fireworks show. Watch your local TV stations for these locations.

REMEMBER: Keep the 4th of July injury free and fire safe.



National Weather Service
Lightning Safety Awareness Week
June 18-24, 2006

Lightning Kills Play It Safe

**When outside...
if you see signs
of a developing
storm, head to
a safe place
immediately!**



www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov



NOAA PA 200666

U. S. Fire Administration
Pandemic/Avian Flu Resources
for Fire and Emergency Medical Services
now available on the USFA website.
www.usfa.fema.gov

NEWS LETTER INFORMATION

Submit news letter information to Eddie Weatherman
eweatherman@yadkincountync.gov
To receive a copy of the news letter, send email request.

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