



Yadkin County Fire Marshal's Office

THE FLAME

Emergency Services News Letter



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FEBRUARY, 2008

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Statewide Burning Ban Temporarily Lifted

The statewide burning ban which had been in effect since October 15, 2007 was temporarily lifted on January 2, 2008. While not ending the drought, recent rains have significantly reduced the danger of wildfires. State Forestry officials says lifting the burning ban will allow people to conduct burning under controlled conditions. This will allow burning to reduce buildup of vegetation which could fuel future fires. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources and its Division of Forest Resources will be monitoring conditions to determine if the burning ban will need to be reinstated. The burning ban could be reinstated if the wildfire activity increases and the states continues to receive below normal rainfall. Even though the burning ban has been lifted, citizens should use caution when conducting open burning. Here are some safety rules to follow:

- Follow local burning regulations.
- Don't burn on dry, windy days.
- Keep tools available to control the fire such as; a garden hose, bucket, rake and shovel.
- Always maintain watch over the fire until it has been extinguished.

Travis Williams, New Fire Inspector

Travis Williams was hired as a Fire Prevention Inspector for Yadkin County. Travis will be working under the Building Inspections Department. Travis grew up in Yadkin County, and has worked for RJR, Sunland Fire Protection and Forsyth County. He is currently certified as a Fire Prevention Inspector Level I. He lives in Surry

County just outside of Dobson with his wife Cindy and two daughters, Lauren and Charleigh. Travis has been involved in the Fire Service since 1988 starting at RJR in the Fire Brigade and First Response and is currently a member and officer at Central Surry VFD. Travis has already met some of the Fire Chiefs and firefighters and says he is looking forward to working with them.



**“Time is
the
biggest
enemy”**

Fire Safety Tips



In the event of a fire, remember time is the biggest enemy and every second counts!

Escape first, then call for help. Develop a home fire escape plan and designate a meeting place outside. Make sure everyone in the family knows two ways to escape from every room. Practice feeling your way out with your eyes closed. Never stand up in a fire, always crawl low under the smoke and try to keep your mouth covered. Never return to a burning building for any reason; it may cost you your life.

Finally, having a working smoke alarm dramatically increases your chances of surviving a fire. And remember to practice a home escape plan frequently with your family.

This message is brought to you by the United States Fire Administration

NC Forest Service Burning Permits



Get Your Burning Permits Online
www.dfr.state.nc.us

Upcoming Events / Deadlines

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| • Fire Chief's Association Meeting - TBA | April 2, 2008 |
| • 1st Responder Committee Meeting - Yadkin Campus SCC | April 16, 2008 |
| • Fire & Rescue Association Meeting - Forbush VFD | April 17, 2008 |



**YADKIN COUNTY FIRE MARSHAL SUPPORTS
THE U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION'S
SMOKING & HOME FIRES CAMPAIGN**
Encouraging Smokers to Put it Out. All the Way. Every Time

Smoking is the number one cause of home fire deaths. To prevent these deaths, the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), a division of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is launching a nationwide *Smoking & Home Fires Campaign* designed to raise awareness and stop home fires caused by smoking before they start. The Yadkin County Fire Marshal is supporting this important effort to help save lives.

The USFA's Smoking & Home Fires Campaign is aimed at alerting people, especially smokers and those who live with them, to the fact that careless smoking is the number one cause of preventable home fire deaths. The goal is to prevent fire deaths by urging smokers to *Put it Out. All the Way. Every time*. The campaign will promote fire-safe smoking practices through educational materials, community organization-sponsored events and a consumer-friendly campaign Web site.

"Most fires caused by smoking materials start on beds, furniture, or in trash," said Tom Olshanski, spokesperson for the U.S. Fire Administration. "It's not just the smokers that are killed in these fires. In fact, one in four people killed in these kinds of fires were not the smokers themselves." On average, 1,000 people are killed in smoking-related home fires every year and most people are asleep when the fires occur.

Smoke-related fires can be prevented by taking a few simple precautions. Smokers and those who live with smokers should ensure the following:

- Smokers should smoke outside and use ashtrays with a wide, stable base that won't tip over.
- Always make sure cigarettes and ashes are out.
- Never toss hot cigarette butts or ashes in the trash.
- Soak cigarette butts and ashes in water before throwing them away.
- Chairs and sofas burn fast so never put ashtrays on them and check for cigarettes under cushions if people have been smoking in your home.
- If you are drowsy or falling asleep, put it out. Smoking in bed is just plain wrong.

For more information on the ***Smoking & Home Fires Campaign*** and other fire prevention information, please visit www.usfa.fema.gov/smoking.

If You Smoke, Put it Out. All the Way. Every Time.

Ask the Fire Marshal



What is our Response Plan for severe weather or other events that affect a majority of Yadkin County?

This plan was developed to reduce radio traffic during emergencies that affect a majority of Yadkin County such as; winter storms, thunder storms, etc.

- If an event affects a majority of Yadkin County and Communications begins to get several calls, all departments will be dispatched to have someone to monitor the telephone at each station.
- All Departments will be assigned one Incident Number for routine calls for the duration of the event.
- All routine calls will be dispatched by telephone if possible.
- Log all calls you respond to. (Location, trucks, personnel, times and what task was performed).
- Limit radio traffic on Dispatch frequency for emergencies only.
- A routine response should be stressed on all trees down, power lines down or even on fire, if no property loss or life threatening situations exist.

2008 Volunteer Fire Department Fund Grant

The Volunteer Fire Department Fund was created to provide matching grant monies to volunteer fire departments to purchase equipment and make capital improvements. There are a few changes to the application requirements this year.

- ⇒ Grant amount has increased to \$30,000.
- ⇒ Serves a response area of 12,000 or less in population.
- ⇒ Have paid members to fill the equivalent of six full-time paid positions.

The 2008 Volunteer Fire Department Fund Grant applications must be post marked by March 1, 2008.

16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives

1. Define and advocate the need for a cultural change within the fire service relating to safety; incorporating leadership, management, supervision, accountability and personal responsibility.
2. Enhance the personal and organizational accountability for health and safety throughout the fire service.
3. Focus greater attention on the integration of risk management with incident management at all levels, including strategic, tactical, and planning responsibilities.
4. All firefighters must be empowered to stop unsafe practices.
5. Develop and implement national standards for training, qualifications, and certification (including regular recertification) that are equally applicable to all firefighters based on the duties they are expected to perform.
6. Develop and implement national medical and physical fitness standards that are equally applicable to all firefighters, based on the duties they are expected to perform.
7. Create a national research agenda and data collection system that relates to the initiatives.
8. Utilize available technology wherever it can produce higher levels of health and safety.
9. Thoroughly investigate all firefighter fatalities, injuries, and near misses.
10. Grant programs should support the implementation of safe practices and/or mandate safe practices as an eligibility requirement.
11. National standards for emergency response policies and procedures should be developed and championed.
12. National protocols for response to violent incidents should be developed and championed.
13. Firefighters and their families must have access to counseling and psychological support.
14. Public education must receive more resources and be championed as a critical fire and life safety program.
15. Advocacy must be strengthened for the enforcement of codes and the installation of home fire sprinklers.
16. Safety must be a primary consideration in the design of apparatus and equipment.



www.EveryoneGoesHome.com

Have the **COURAGE** To Be Safe so

EVERYONE GOES HOME
FIREFIGHTER LIFE SAFETY INITIATIVES

Forbush Fire Department

Submitted By: Dale Couch



- ◇ The Forbush Volunteer Fire Department held its annual dinner and awards banquet on January 5th 2008. A special thanks goes to Yadkin Valley Seafood, The Depot, Forbush Fire Department Special Events Committee and many others that contributed their time and effort to assist with this dinner.
- ◇ Forbush Fire Department would like to welcome aboard Luke Hubbard and Dale Couch as part time paid engineers.
- ◇ Forbush VFD's overall average response time to incidents has decreased from 9.5 minutes to 6.5 minutes since the part time program started in August.
- ◇ Forbush VFD had a total of 410 responses during 2007.

254 – Fire/Rescue/Hazmat
156 – Medical

- ◇ Forbush VFD members had a total of 3,186 training hours for the department.
- ◇ Of the fire incidents responded to, a total property value of \$461,933 was threatened by fire. Forbush had a fire loss of \$134,973 with a total savings of \$ 326,960.



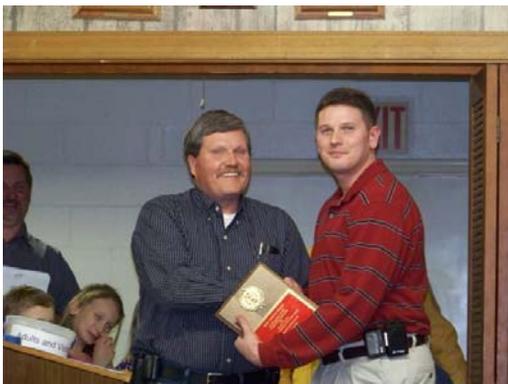
2007 Rookie Firefighter of the Year - Sam Hughes



2007 First Responder of the Year - Sam Hughes



2007 Firefighter of the Year - Sam Hughes



2007 Chief's Award - Dale Couch



2007 Cadet of the Year - Maegan Slater

Firefighter Injuries 2002-2006

Ninety-One Responders Injured

Between 2002 and 2006 there were 91 responders injured in HAZMAT events in North Carolina. Of these, 46 (51%) were firefighters injured in 15 events. Twenty-one firefighters were reported to be HAZMAT trained, fifteen were not HAZMAT trained and training status was unknown for 10 firefighters. Injuries ranged from respiratory irritation to dizziness to gastrointestinal irritation (Figure 1). Most injured firefighters were treated and released from a hospital (Figure 2).

Use of personal protective equipment (PPE) is shown in Figure 3. Twenty-eight firefighters who reported using either turnout gear with respiratory protection or Level C gear suffered respiratory irritation, skin irritation, gastrointestinal irritation and exertion with elevated blood pressure. Two firefighters who reported PPE use with respiratory protection were admitted to the hospital, 11 were treated with first aid and 15 were treated and released from a hospital. Using a positive pressure SCBA and using PPE for the proper length of time could have prevented most of these injuries.



What is wrong with this photo?
Respiratory protection prevents injuries!

Figure 1

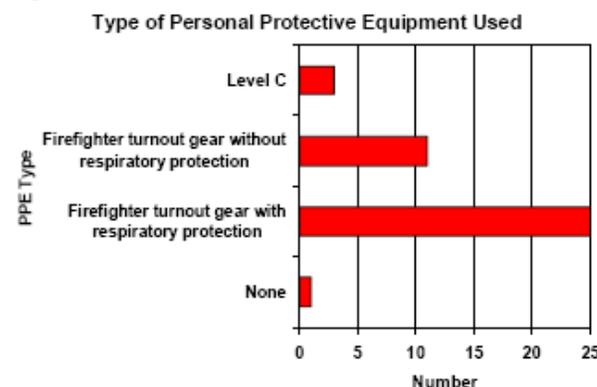


*Central nervous system **Gastrointestinal ***Blood Pressure

Figure 2



Figure 3



Prevent Respiratory Injury

Using personal protective equipment correctly could prevent most respiratory injuries. Respiratory protection should be used until the scene is determined safe from monitor readings. When responding to a HAZMAT call be sure to use your SCBA or select the proper cartridge for the chemical involved in the incident. All fires should be approached with caution whether dispatched as a HAZMAT or fire call.

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services - Division of Public Health
www.ncdhhs.gov - www.ncpublichealth.com
NC DHHS is an equal opportunity employer and provider.



N. C. Hazardous Substances Emergency Events Surveillance (HSEES)
1912 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, NC 27699-1912
Phone: 919-707-5900 • Fax: 919-870-4808
<http://www.epi.state.nc.us/epi/oii/hsees.html>

New Feature Available on the National Weather Service Blacksburg Web Page

Submitted By: Phil Hysell, National Weather Service

The National Weather Service in Blacksburg is excited to announce a new feature on our web page that allows you to plan activities based on specific weather conditions. This feature is called the *Weather Activity Planner* and is located on the left hand column of our web site: www.weather.gov/blacksburg. (See image below)

The screenshot shows the National Weather Service Forecast Office website for Blacksburg, VA. The page has a blue header with the NOAA logo and the text "National Weather Service Forecast Office Blacksburg, VA". Below the header are navigation links for "Home", "News", and "Organiza".

On the left sidebar, there are several sections:

- Página en Español**
- Local forecast by "City, St"** with a search box and a "Go" button.
- Current Hazards**: National Hazards, Local Hazards, Briefing Pages.
- Current Conditions**: Observations, River & Lake Level, Rivers & Lakes AHPS, Air Quality.
- Radar/Satellite**: Imagery, RIDGE Radar, Standard Radar, Nationwide Radar, Satellite Images.
- Forecasts**: **Activity Planner** (highlighted with a red box), Public Forecasts, AFM / PFM, Graphical Forecasts, Area Discussions, Aviation, Fire Weather, Hydrology, Maps & Models.

The main content area is titled "Top News of the Day:" and lists:

- See our new Climate Top 10s for Temps, Pcpn, and Snow **NEW!**
- 2008 Basic Skywarn Schedule **NEW!**
- Please comment on our use of Instant Messaging During Severe Weather. [More Headlines Below](#)

Below the news is a section titled "Quick Glimpse at the Weather and Local Hazards Blacksburg, VA". It includes a map of the region with a legend for:

- Hazardous Weather Outlook (yellow)
- Wind Chill Advisory (light blue)
- Special Weather Statement (orange)

 The map shows various cities like Charleston, Beckley, Lewisburg, Bluefield, Roanoke, Lynchburg, Farmville, Wytheville, Mount Airy, Danville, Boone, Winston-Salem, and Greensboro. A "Zoom Out" button is visible on the right side of the map.

At the bottom of the page, there are options to view the forecast in different formats: Text Forecasts, Digital Forecast, Graphical Forecast, and Graphical Forecast Images.

Once selected, you enter what combination of weather conditions of interest for your specific area. In the example below, we want to know if there will be any time over the next 7 days where the relative humidity will be 25% or less AND when 20 foot winds will be 20 MPH or greater. These are two of the five conditions needed for a Red Flag warning in North Carolina.

(continued on page 9)

National Weather Service Blacksburg

(continued from page 8)

The Weather Activity Planner is NOT meant to replace a spot forecast request. The Weather Activity Planner utilizes 20 foot winds only.

Element	Min	Max	Element	Min	Max
Temperature		to	Surface Wind Direction		to
Relative Humidity	0	to 25	Sky Cover		to
Surface Wind Speed (mph)	20	to 50	Precipitation Potential		to

Read watches, warnings & advisories **Zoom Out**

- Wind Chill Advisory
- Special Weather Statement
- Hazardous Weather Outlook

Latitude/Longitude Entry
decimal degrees (i.e. 42.134) or deg min sec (i.e. 42 23 34)

Latitude:

Longitude:

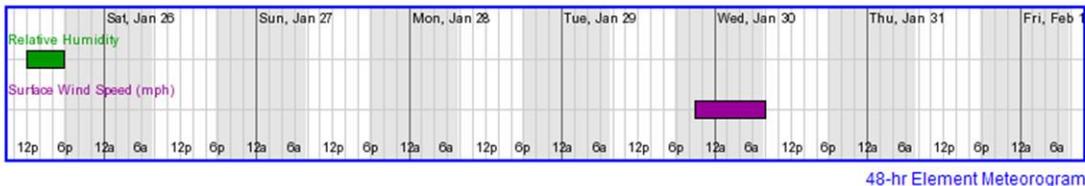
Select Cities

- Beckley WV
- Bluefield VA
- Boone NC
- Charleston WV
- Charlottesville VA
- Danville VA
- Farmville VA

Last Updated: Fri, Jan. 25 2008 9:17 AM

Once the weather elements of interest are entered, just select a location either on the map, or enter a latitude/longitude value for a specific location. Below is the output for our request. It shows near Boone, NC, relative humidity values will be 25 percent or less from noon to 6 pm Friday, and winds will be 20 mph or greater from 9 pm Tuesday to 8 am Wednesday, but these two parameters will not occur simultaneously.

The Weather Activity Planner is NOT meant to replace a spot forecast request. The Weather Activity Planner utilizes 20 foot winds only. Areas highlighted on graph below represent the times when the weather criteria above have been met.



Element	Min	Max	Element	Min	Max
Temperature		to	Surface Wind Speed (mph)		to
Relative Humidity	0	to 25	Sky Cover		to
Surface Wind Speed (mph)	20	to 50	Precipitation Potential		to

Latitude/Longitude Entry
decimal degrees (i.e. 42.134) or deg min sec (i.e. 42 23 34)

Latitude: Longitude:

So, the next time you want to know when specific weather conditions are expected for your specific location, try our weather activity planner at: www.weather.gov/blacksburg.

Portable Generator Safety



- Always use generators outdoors, away from doors, windows and vents. NEVER use generators inside homes, garages, basements, crawl spaces, or other enclosed or partially enclosed areas, even with ventilation.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for use.
- Install battery-operated or plug-in (with battery backup) carbon monoxide alarms in your home, following the manufacturer's instructions.
- Test CO detectors often and replace batteries when needed.
- Keep the generator dry. Use on a dry surface under an open, canopy-like structure.
- Dry your hands before touching the generator.
- Plug appliances directly into the generator or use a heavy-duty outdoor-rated extension cord. Make sure the entire extension cord is free of cuts or tears and the plug has all 3 prongs, especially a grounding pin.
- NEVER plug the generator into a wall outlet (known as back-feeding). This practice can cause an electrocution risk to utility workers and others served by the same utility transformer.
- If you must connect a generator to house wiring, have a qualified electrician install appropriate equipment. Your utility company may be able to install an appropriate transfer switch as well.
- Before refueling the generator, turn it off and let it cool. Fuel spilled on hot engine parts could ignite.
- Always store fuel outside of living areas in properly labeled, non-glass containers.
- Store fuel away from any fuel-burning appliance.

Source: United States Fire Administration

NEWS LETTER INFORMATION

Submit news letter information to **Eddie Weatherman**
eweatherman@yadkincountync.gov

To receive a copy of the news letter, send email request.

Yadkin County Fire Marshal's Office

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