



N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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U.S. Forest Service Stages Firefighting Aircraft In Kinston

RALEIGH – The U.S. Forest Service has relocated a large firefighting airtanker at the N.C. Division of Forest Resources' Kinston facility in case the aircraft is needed to fight a large wildfire burning in North Myrtle Beach, S.C.

The N.C. Division of Forest Resources has provided a place at the Kinston Regional Jetport for the U.S. Forest Service to stage its P3 Orion Airtanker. Also, the N.C. Division of Forest Resources is supplying a crew to load flame retardant onto the airtanker, which can drop 2,550 gallons of flame retardant at one time.

Staff with the N.C. Division of Forest Resources has been in contact with the S.C. Forestry Commission to offer assistance with the 19,600-acre wildfire burning near North Myrtle Beach, S.C. The division has personnel and equipment available if the S.C. Forestry Commission requests help.

The wildfire in South Carolina has destroyed 69 homes and damaged another 100 homes. The wildfire also has forced the evacuation of 4,000 people.

North Carolina forestry officials have readied firefighting resources near the state's border in case the wildfire approaches the Tar Heel State.

North Carolina forestry officials continue to urge residents, particularly along the coast, not to burn leaves, pine straw, twigs or other yard vegetation. Winds, high temperatures and dry, organic fuels in the area have increased the risk of wildfire.

For more information, call Brian R. Haines, public information officer with the N.C. Division of Forest Resources, at (919) 857-4828 or (919) 218-9728.

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