



North Carolina  
Department of Environment  
and  
Natural Resources

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North Carolina  
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### **Dangerous Wildfire Conditions Persist In North Carolina**

**RALEIGH** – Officials with the N.C. Division of Forest Resources are discouraging people from burning yard vegetation because dry, windy conditions have increased the potential for dangerous wildfires.

Those weather conditions prompted the National Weather Service and the N.C. Division of Forest Resources on Friday to issue a red flag warning for 21 counties in eastern North Carolina and three counties in the western part of the state. Friday marks the second day in a row that fire and weather officials have issued a warning in parts of North Carolina.

A red flag warning simply means that conditions are ripe for dangerous wildfires.

“We are urging people to postpone any outdoor burning,” said Shardul Raval, fire staff forester with the Division of Forest Resources. “We need much lower wind conditions and a good soaking rain before people should even think about burning.”

North Carolina is experiencing above average wildfire activity because of the dry, windy conditions, Raval said. The state has seen 871 wildfires that have burned 2,653 acres in 2007. The No. 1 cause of wildfires in North Carolina is when brush fires escape.

On Thursday, fire crews from the Division of Forest Resources and local fire departments fought 129 wildfires across the state. One of those fires burned 160 acres and destroyed five occupied homes as well as six outbuildings in Hoke County. A fire burned 100 acres of forestland in Harnett County. Another fire that started Thursday in McDowell County has burned an estimated 300 acres and is not yet contained. A team from the Division of Forest Resources has been dispatched to help fight the McDowell County blaze.

Dangerous weather conditions exist throughout the state. But the red flag warning was issued for areas in eastern and western North Carolina where the winds are above 20 mph and the relative humidities are 25 percent or lower. The counties under a red flag warning include: Martin, Pitt, Washington, Tyrrell, Dare, Greene, Beaufort, Hyde, Duplin, Lenoir, Jones, Craven, Pamlico, Carteret, Onslow, Robeson, Bladen, Pender, Columbus, Brunswick, New Hanover, Avery, Yancey and Mitchell counties.

For more information, please call Raval, at (919) 733-2162, ext. 236 or 239. For updates on fire activity in the state, visit the division’s Web site, [www.dfr.state.nc.us](http://www.dfr.state.nc.us) and click on Wildfire Statistics.

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