



COASTAL WILDFIRE PREVENTION TEAM

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FIRE PREVENTION INSERT PROVIDED BY STATE & FEDERAL FORESTRY OFFICIALS

(Bonneau, SC) Although wildfires threatening homes may seem to be something you only hear about occurring in the western US, urban sprawl is causing this situation to become more and more common in South Carolina. In fact, over 40 homes are destroyed by wildfires in our state each year. To raise awareness of actions that residents can take to protect their homes from fires, a wildfire prevention team was put in place January 9 in Bonneau. One of the tools this team is using is the Fire Prevention insert that is included in this week's paper.

The prevention team has been tasked with reducing the number of wildfires by promoting safe debris burning practices. Over 40% of the nearly 4,000 wildfires that occur each year in South Carolina are caused by debris burns that escape and become forest fires. Here are a few simple steps that will greatly reduce the chances of your backyard debris burn from getting out of control:

1. Watch the weather closely – don't burn when it is dry or windy.
2. Contact the SC Forestry Commission – it's the law and you will be told if it is unsafe to burn.
3. Clear an area around your pile so that the fire will not spread.
4. Have a source of water and tools handy and stay with your fire until it is safe to leave.

For more information, contact your local SC Forestry Commission office.



THINK BEFORE YOU BURN

