

Red Flag Fire Alert

from the SC Forestry Commission



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Red Flag Fire Alert to be issued for entire state Friday

Weather conditions contributing to elevated fire danger over holiday weekend

The South Carolina Forestry Commission will issue a Red Flag Fire Alert for the entire state at 7 a.m. Friday, Feb. 13.

A Red Flag Fire is intended to warn the public that outdoor fires may escape easily and spread rapidly. Weather forecasts for most of the state over the next four days will contribute to an elevated fire danger. These conditions include sustained high winds, strong gusts, dry fuels and very low relative humidity.

Nearly 50 percent of wildfires in South Carolina are caused by escaped debris burns.

“The convergence of all these particular weather patterns creates very favorable conditions for wildfires,” said Darryl Jones, SCFC Fire Chief and Forest Protection Director. “And with this being a long holiday weekend, with many people off work and doing things outside – including things like cookouts and debris burning – the potential for danger is even higher.”

A Red Flag Fire Alert does not prohibit outdoor burning as long as all other state and local regulations are followed, but the Forestry Commission strongly encourages citizens to voluntarily postpone any such burning until the alert is lifted. However, a Red Flag Fire Alert does trigger certain county or local ordinances that restrict outdoor fires, so residents should contact their local fire departments to check whether such restrictions apply in their areas.

The alert will remain in effect until lifted by the Commission, whose fire managers will continuously monitoring the situation throughout the weekend.

ALSO AVAILABLE FOR COMMENT:

Darryl Jones
SCFC Fire Chief
(803) 667-1039

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SCFC Fire Duty Officer
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As the only state agency responsible for wildfire suppression in all unincorporated areas of the state, the South Carolina Forestry Commission protects 13.6 million acres from wildland fire. More than 500 county, municipal and volunteer fire departments operate more than 1,100 fire stations in South Carolina. The Forestry Commission cooperates with these departments to prevent and control structural and wildland fires, employing highly trained firefighters and specialized equipment when fires burn into forested areas that are difficult to reach.

Did you know...?

Forestry Commission firefighters respond to an average of 2,500 wildland fires every year, burning about 17,000 acres annually. An astounding 98 percent of all wildland fires are caused by human activities, with debris burning as the most common culprit. Wildfires originating from burning yard debris, construction waste and land-clearing piles, not to mention arson and other illegal types of fires, fall into this cause category.