



PREVENT WILDFIRES

PEE DEE WILDFIRE PREVENTION TEAM

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“LIVING WITH FIRE” INSERT PROVIDED BY SC FORESTRY COMMISSION

(Kingstree, 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 damaged or destroyed by wildfires in our state each year. To raise awareness of actions that residents can take to protect their homes and the homes of their neighbors from fires, a wildfire prevention team will be put in place January 9th in Kingstree. One of the tools this team is using is the insert titled “Think Before You Strike” that is included in this week’s paper. Please read the information carefully and begin taking steps to reduce the risk to your home, family and neighbors from wildfire.

The prevention team has been tasked with reducing the number of wildfires by promoting safe debris burning practices. Over 40% of the nearly 5,000 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 yard 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.

Yard debris notification numbers: Williamsburg County – 1-800-517-9643

Georgetown County – 1-800-986-5256

Horry County – 1-800-986-5404

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THINK BEFORE YOU BURN

