

Firefighters Battle Brush Fire In Franklin

By Maddie Hanna
Concord Monitor staff

From the August 23 *Concord Monitor*
It took firefighters more than 24 hours to put out a 3-acre brush fire that was discovered Saturday morning in a remote area of Franklin near a Boy Scout campsite.

Though officials say the fire – which burned mostly underground – likely started near a fire pit at the campsite, “truly I don’t know what started it,” Franklin fire Capt. Steve Fecteau [of Andover] said yesterday afternoon.

Fecteau said the fire had been smoldering for days, and “it could have been a lightning strike, even though we haven’t had that much. There’s so many different things it could be.”

About 30 firefighters from eight departments [including East Andover and Andover fire departments] responded Saturday after state forest officials at a fire tower reported smoke.

Firefighters discovered the fire on land owned by the city of Franklin off Mont-

gomery Road, near [Flaghole Road in] Andover and Salisbury. Smoke was coming up from holes in the ground, Fecteau said, in some places burning as deep as 12 inches into the soil and forest material.

That made it difficult to extinguish, Fecteau said.

“You have to dig the ground out every time you see a little piece of smoke,” he said.

“Over 3 acres, that’s a lot of area,” he said.

Firefighters also had to bring their equipment in with all-terrain vehicles since the site was so hard to access, Fecteau said.

While most of the firefighters went home Saturday night, Fecteau said one crew kept watch until the others returned at 8 yesterday morning.

Firefighters will go back to the site tomorrow to make sure everything is extinguished, he said.

“Really the rain is here at a perfect time,” Fecteau said.

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It’s Time To Check Your Heating System

Local fire chiefs Rene Lefebvre and Chuck Ellis urge everyone to heed this advice!

Heating season will soon be here. This is the time to check your heating systems. Having your heating system checked by a qualified professional will help ensure that the system is ready to operate safely and efficiently.

Heating unit fires are still the number one cause of fires in New Hampshire, and they are preventable. Heating fires are often the result of improper installation, use, or maintenance of supplemental home heating appliances such as wood stoves, coal stoves, and kerosene space heaters. The use of these supplemental heating devices also increases the risk of dangerous accumulation of carbon monoxide in the home if not properly installed and maintained. Now

is the time to have them checked.

It is critical that every home has interconnected smoke alarms on each floor level and that every family should develop and practice a home fire escape plan. Smoke alarms should be tested monthly. Matches and lighters should be kept out of the reach of children at all times.

For further information concerning home fire safety, contact your local fire department or the office of the State Fire Marshal at 271-3294.

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House Numbers Are Important

By John Kinney
Andover EMS

Can you read these numbers?



More accurately, can you read them from a distance of 50 feet while traveling 30 mph? Of course 911 are the numbers to dial when you have an emergency and need help from police, fire departments, or emergency medical services (EMS), but they could also represent a house number.

As I drive around town, I often notice properties where the house number is either missing or simply way too small to ever been seen while driving our ambulance – especially at night. I know this topic has been addressed before, but the problem still exists. Please take a few minutes to look at your own house numbers and follow these simple guidelines:

- A minimum of 3” in height (as shown above).
- The stroke width (thickness) must be at least 3/8” (as shown above).
- Numbers must be set on a background of contrasting color (as shown above).
- Numbers should be reflective, to be

more visible at night.

- Numbers must be displayed where they are legible and vis-

ible from the primary access to the property, such as on your mailbox at the end of your driveway. Number both sides, since you never know from which direction help may arrive, even on a dead-end road.

Don’t take a chance. If your house numbers don’t meet each of these guidelines, you run the risk of losing precious minutes while emergency services search desperately to find your house. Some other helpful tips in the event of a medical emergency include:

- If it’s night, turn on all lights and keep a flashlight handy to gain the attention of emergency services.
- Lock away dogs, keep children away, and leave your front door open, if safe, to help emergency services attend to you without delay.
- If possible, send an adult to the road to get the attention of and direct emergency services.

Above all else, always remember safety first. Injuring yourself can’t possibly help in an emergency situation.



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