

Ashes Can Cause A Forest Fire

The use of wood burning stoves and fireplace inserts is on the increase, and so is the number of forest fires caused by ashes removed from stoves and fireplaces, according to North Carolina Division of Forest Resources. The light powdery ash left from a wood fire can insulate hot coals and glowing embers hiding them from view. It is not unusual for these coals to smolder for several days before they are totally consumed.

Ashes removed from a wood stove or fireplace should be put in a metal bucket and placed outside away from buildings. The bucket should be secured or anchored so it will not be tipped over by people, animals or the wind. Some people prefer to store the ashes in a larger metal barrel for later use in a compost pile or in a garden. The bucket or barrel should be covered, however, to cut off the oxygen and prevent the ashes from being blown away. Any ashes removed from a wood stove or fireplace should be allowed to sit outside in a covered container for several days before being added to a compost pile or spread on a garden.

The Division of Forest Resources urges people to treat ash from wood stoves and fireplaces the same way good campers treat a campfire. Pour water on the ash, stir, and add more water.

Make sure that warm cherry glow stays in the stove or fireplace and doesn't become a hot raging inferno in someone's forest.

Mrs. Lottie Barton, Ms. Mentha Suber and Arthur Young have returned to Tryon after spending the weekend in Denmark, S. C. where they attended the Denmark Tech Homecoming game on Saturday.

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