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Posted: Fri 8:59 AM, Jul 04, 2008    A A

Updated: Fri 9:38 PM, Jul 04, 2008

**Evans Road Wildfire Grows; Smoke Remains A Problem**

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Reporter: Bill Wilson



-  Wildfire One Month Old
-  Wildfire Brings Another Code Purple
-  Wildfire now 70% contained
-  Wildfire 60% Contained
-  Code Purple Alert Issued
-  Evacuation Lifted For Waterway Landing
-  State Issues Code Purple Alert
-  Smoke Blows Inland
-  Smoke Remains A Problem During July 4th



Lower humidity and gusty winds help expand the Evans Road wildfire for the first time in two weeks.

The fire, now in it's 34 day, covers a total of 41,355 acres in Hyde, Washington, and Tyrrell counties.

The NC Forest Service says peat soil continues to burn down to an average depth of three feet, making the fire extremely difficult to extinguish.

With the increased fire activity, foresters warn that smoke can reduce visibility of area highways.

Officials say the fire will continue to spew smoke through the weekend, creating unhealthy air in places around Elizabeth City. Some unhealthy air could spread as far as Kill Devil Hills.

The state Division of Air Quality encourages people to limit prolonged outdoors activity. People who are sensitive to air pollution should avoid all physical activity outdoors in areas most affected by the smoke.

The forest service says 333 people are still assisting in trying to put the fire out.

#### Tuesday's Update

Today mark one month that the Evans Road wildfire has been burning in Hyde, Tyrrell & Washington counties.

The wildfire that has burned more than 41,000 acres remains inside containment lines, but a spokesman says it still could burn a long time.

North Carolina Forest Service spokesman David Brown said Monday the fire remains at 75 percent contained. But without major rainfall, he said "there's really not an end in sight."

The forest service says the fire continues to burn in peat deposits underground in some places as far as 3 feet deep. Firefighters are trying to keep the edges soaked by pumping water into canals and ditches.

#### Monday's Story

The Evans Road wildfire is now in its 30th day as firefighters continue to battle to blaze.

The size of the fire hasn't changed in two weeks, but 332 personnel continue to battle the blaze in Hyde, Tyrrell and Washington counties.

The fire remains at 75% contains and this weekend strong winds caused some flareups in several areas.

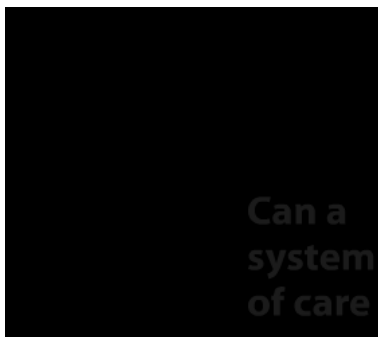
A Code Red or Code Purple air quality alert is likely Tuesday for Camden, Currituck, Dare, Hyde, Pasquotank and Tyrrell counties.

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