

'Bee burning' leads to wild fire

Written by

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Firefighters in Wilkes responded to a fire in the Wilbar area yesterday evening- and, according to N.C. Forest Ranger Jody Brady, the blaze started in a unique way.

He says the property owner was "bee burning" several days ago, using fire to get rid of pesky yellow jackets. "The ground is so dry," he says, "that if a fire gets started in the ground, it's going to stay there." When the property owner returned to the area yesterday to clean up, the fire popped up as he was stirring the ground. Wilbar and Millers Creek Fire Departments, and the N.C. Forest Service responded to the two-acre blaze around six thirty yesterday evening, and were on the scene until ten p.m. A bull dozer was employed to contain the fire. The Wilbar blaze was particularly easy to fight because it's what Brady calls a "low creeping fire." Last night was good practice for the impending fire season. According to Brady, fire season typically starts mid-September in Wilkes. "As dry as it is," he says, "it's going to be an active fall fire season."