

Boone Fire A Training Exercise

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Smoke rose from a lot behind the Watauga County Recreation Center and National Guard Armory in Boone last night. The fire was under control, however, safe in the hands of local firefighters. According to Boone Fire Chief Reggie Hassler, the fire was a training exercise. The firefighters practiced a variety of techniques typically used to control and put out wildfires. Low humidity, warmer temperatures, dry post-winter ground cover, and wind make this a high-risk time of year for wildfires. Hassler recommends refraining from outdoor burning under these conditions. In fact, this weekend, nine homes were destroyed and 200 acres were burned by wildfires fueled by those conditions in Swain County. No injuries were reported. Separate brush fires were also reported near the French Broad river. According to a local listener, a fire also threatened homes in the Creston area of Ashe County yesterday afternoon.