

## Red Flag Fire Warning

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The North Carolina Forest Service has issued a Red Flag warning for fire danger today. In spite of a small band of rain that passed through the area late Friday, fire danger is immediately back to 'high' after the frontal system brought in more dry weather and wind. Winds in the High Country today are predicted to gust as high as 35 miles per hour, making the spread of wildfires a real danger. Another short period of rain is predicted to move through late tonight and early Sunday, but by mid-day, we should have sun returning and winds around 20mph. Today's warning lasts until after dark. Watauga Emergency Management yesterday issued an advisory for residents to be cautious with any fire source--extinguish smoking materials in an ash tray--not on the ground. With at least one of last week's fires of suspicious nature, they asked for all to help watch for suspicious activity and be the 'eyes' of area authorities, reporting suspicious activities.