

## Ashe County Wildfire Caused By Wood Fire Ashe Disposal

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Firefighters from the Creston and Pond Mountain Volunteer Fire Departments and the US Forestry service fought a blaze for 6-7 hours Monday near the Pond Mountain Township area of Creston.

US Forest Service Asst. Ranger Anthony Farmer said the fire covered about eight acres and threatened five homes. About 30 firefighters fought to contain the blaze and protect the homes involved. No one was injured and ultimately, all homes were protected. Farmer said that most of the blaze was fought by hand on foot in very steep, rough terrain. They did have the assistance of a Forest Service scout plane that informed firefighters of the blaze's progress. Farmer said the cause of the fire was ash disposal from a woodstove. Often wood fire ashes can still be alive even if they have appeared dead for up to 48 hours. Exercise extreme caution during ash disposal creating a barrier around the disposal area and dowsing the ashes with water.