

Avery firefighter assists Oregon wildfire

Written by
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Avery County's North Carolina Forest Ranger Joe Shoupe is battling a forest fire- but not in Pisgah. In fact, it's much farther away, in Warm Springs, Oregon.

When a fire grows too large for local firefighters to handle- and appeal is sent out. Shoupe has traveled to several wildfires.

In Oregon, however, it's a different experience.

Due to the amount of unspoiled land- fires get much bigger, requiring the help of federal agencies. Shoupe is assisting with logistics- not actually on the fire scene itself. Such experiences help him become a better firefighter.

While this particular fire is expected to be under control by August 1, forest service outings

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typically last two weeks- so Shoupe says it's likely he'll make stops at other fires before returning to Avery County.