



2001 Whiteville, North Carolina District Hazard Mitigation

The North Carolina Division of Forest Resources (DFR) created an aggressive fire mitigation and prevention program in the Whiteville District, which contains volatile fuel types and organic soils that contribute to extreme fire behavior and high fire occurrence. With rapid growth in the last decade, the interface hazard has also grown. To reduce these hazards the local DFR district created a prevention education outreach program:

1. Purchased mobile trailers to be used at key intersections and commercial centers to educate the public on interface fire risks
2. Operates the trailers as mobile fire education centers at county fairs, parades, and community programs throughout the Whiteville District
3. Uses the trailers as public education centers during large hazard reduction burns, such as a 1,000-acre burn done in conjunction with the Nature Conservancy in Boiling Springs. The trailers provided a venue for education on the benefits of prescribed burning and Firewise
4. Set up the trailers in communities to provide information about the Firewise program. Two communities are now nationally recognized as Firewise USA communities.

The mobility of these trailers allows DFR to take fire prevention education programs to more than 1,400 at-risk communities, along with schools, fairs, and other public venues in North Carolina. The trailers have expanded the DFR's fire prevention program visibility and our ability to offer information and education to the public wherever it's needed. As a result, dozens of at-risk communities have become interested in the Firewise program and have received hazard mitigation burn plans.



For more information contact:

Robin Carter, North Carolina DFR (919)733-2162 x262 robin.carter@ncmail.net