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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Simple steps can save homes from brush fire

April 20, 2017 – Conditions are getting drier in Flagler County, and taking a few precautions now can go a long way to protect homes from the brush fires common this time of year.

“Research and science have proven that taking a couple of simple action steps can reduce the risk to your home and property,” said Flagler County Fire Rescue Chief Don Petito. “A fire cannot burn without fuel, so the idea is to clear the area around your house of things that can burn.”

The rule of thumb accepted by a variety of fire prevention agencies, including the National Fire Protection Association, is that all flammable within 30 feet of a structure should be removed. This includes stacks of firewood, portable propane tanks and dead, dry vegetation.

Additionally, homeowners should clear roofs, eaves, gutters, wood decks and patios of leaves, needles and other debris. Do not store things under decks or porches, and consider using rocks or gravel in those areas instead grass or mulch.

“Wood-driven fires, like brushfires, create embers that can be carried quite far,” Deputy Fire Chief Joe King said. “They seem to find their way to the same nooks and crannies where leaves tend to accumulate, so keep these areas clear of this debris.”

Currently, there is no burn ban in Flagler County.

“Please be careful with barbecue coals, and don’t toss cigarette butts out of car windows,” Petito said. “You can help us keep everyone in the county safe.”

For more information, go to www.flaglercounty.org/firewise.

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