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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Brush fire causes partial Daytona North evacuation, residents urged to take precautions

March 24, 2017 – A Friday afternoon brush fire that grew rapidly in the Daytona North area of western Flagler County caused the partial evacuation of that community. Residents are being asked to take all necessary precautions to keep their families and properties safe.

“We are having difficulty getting this (fire) under control with these dry, windy conditions,” said Flagler County Fire Chief Don Petito. “It’s jumping road after road.”

The fire started about 2 p.m. in the area of Cypress and Lemon streets on a 2-acre parcel, but it quickly grew to about 40 acres total, according to Florida Forest Service, dotting the area between Mahogany Boulevard to the north and Walnut Avenue to the south and moving west toward Avocado Boulevard. It is about 50 percent contained.

It is currently unclear whether the fire began in an abandoned trailer, or if the trailer burned because of the fire. The source of the fire is under investigation.

Since the blaze started, flames have threatened several structures. Because the houses are spread out, some with vacant lots between, residents are being notified individually about evacuating. Adults and children with conditions such as asthma might want to consider evacuating, as smoke can extend far beyond the boundaries of a brush fire.

“We are urging residents to take immediate precautions, and prepare the things they might need to take with them if they are asked to leave their homes,” County Administrator Craig Coffey said.

Residents should be ready to leave with important paperwork like insurance papers and identification, as well prescription medications and appropriate clothing in the event a large-scale evacuation occurs. Homes should have a 30-foot defensible area to protect structures: move any fuels or accelerants away from structures.

Crews from Flagler County, Bunnell, Palm Coast and the Florida Forest Service – including one of its strike teams from St. Johns County – are battling the blaze. Flagler County FireFlight helicopter has been dropping buckets of water on the fire in addition to providing reconnaissance for firefighters on the ground.

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