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Brush fires flare across county

BY KATE WARD Northwest Arkansas Times

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Dry weather conditions contributed to a handful of brush fires across Washington County on Tuesday.

Firefighters from Nob Hill, Round Mountain, Goshen and the Arkansas Forestry Commission responded to 3802 Sassafras Hill at about 1:30 p.m. after a brush fire grew out of control. The blaze burned about 5 acres of grass but didn't damage any structures.

Assistant Washington County Fire Marshal Laurie Roy said firefighters also responded to an early morning blaze in Summers. The fire was reported at about 4:40 a.m. and destroyed an abandoned house, located at 22801 Tunnell Road.

"It completely burned to the ground," Roy said. "The cause is still being investigated."

A third brush fire was reported near Cincinnati at about 2 p.m. Tuesday, but Roy said the blaze didn't cause much damage and was quickly extinguished.

Fayetteville Fire Capt. Scott Jones said Fayetteville firefighters were also called to several brush fires throughout the day Tuesday, but none caused extensive damage. "We got a lot of calls, but most of them were under control by the time we arrived on the scene," Jones said. As of noon Tuesday, the Fayetteville Fire Department stopped issuing burn permits to local residents. "The wind was picking up, so we decided to cut them off for the rest of the day," Jones said. "We'll re-evaluate the weather conditions at 8 a.m. [today]." Roy said the Fire Marshal's Office had yet to issue any burn warnings as of late Tuesday afternoon.

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