

FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE  
OKEECHOBEE DISTRICT  
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## FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES

COMMISSIONER ADAM H. PUTNAM

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07/21/2017

Indian River County Board of County Commissioners  
1801 27th Street  
Vero Beach, FL 32960

Dear Commissioners,

Each year as part of the Florida Forest Service authority and responsibilities to enter agreements with the counties for countywide fire protection, an annual report to the county is submitted. This report covers the services and activities carried out in part, from the funds provided the State through the wildland acres' assessment of seven cents (.07) per acre.

Attached for your review and comments is the report covering the period July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. The attached report specifically covers the Florida Forest Service work in your county regarding the following:

- Fire Activity
- Law Enforcement Activity
- Burning Authorizations
- Equipment Leased to Indian River County by FFS
- Total Acreage under Wildland Fire Protection

It is our goal to render the best possible wildland fire management services to the residents of Indian River County, and we look forward to rendering that assistance in the coming year. I appreciate your continued support of the Forest Service efforts and activities within Indian River County.

Please contact me at your convenience should you have any questions or require any additional information.

Sincerely,

Adam H. Putnam  
COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

Trevor Taylor  
Forest Area Supervisor  
Florida Forest Service  
(772) 778-5085



# Florida Forest Service

## Annual Fire Management Report

Indian River  
County  
2017



## Florida Forest Service, District 16 - Indian River County

Wildland fire protection is the primary responsibility for Florida Forest Service personnel in Indian River County. The Florida Forest Service activities in Indian River County include wildfire detection and suppression, private and public landowner assistance (plowing or harrowing pre-suppression fire lines, roller chopping, prescribed burning, etc.), and conducting wildfire prevention programs.

The following is a breakdown of fire management activities performed by the Florida Forest Service in Indian River County for Fiscal Year 2016/2017. The Florida Forest Service suppressed 34 wildfires in Indian River County which burned 1954.2 acres. Lightning accounted for 35.29 percent and non-authorized piles accounted for 14.71 percent of the total fire acres. A total of 678 burn



authorizations were issued to customers in Indian River County. Burn types included 2,952 piles and 39,520 acres. For fiscal year 2016/2017, Indian River County was assessed \$13,814.36 for fire management services on 197,348 acres.

Through the year, the Florida Forest Service worked closely with Indian River County Conservation to treat several Wildland Urban Interface areas in Vero Beach and Sebastian by roller chopping, mowing, and burning on one hundred (100) plus acres as well as several private landowner properties.

In addition to working with local fire departments to suppress fires, The Florida Forest Service also extended assistance through training and the leasing of fire suppression equipment. Two (2) 6X6 trucks are currently on lease to the St. Sebastian River Preserve, from the Florida Forest Service.

Throughout the year FFS personnel are actively engaged in delivering fire prevention and education programs to the public on the risk of wildfire and the importance of prescribed fire. Key programs that are used include Firewise, Ready-Set-Go, and Smokey Bear. Last year the wildfire prevention message was taken to the Firefighters Fair, Frog Leg Festival, IRC public service event, Pelican Island Elementary, and other local events in the community.



# Florida Forest Service, District 16 - Indian River County

## Attachment: A (Fires by Cause)

Cause	Fires	Percent	Acres	Percent
Campfire	0	0	0.0	0
Children	4	11.76	2.3	0.12
Debris Burn*	0	0	0.0	0
Debris Burn--Auth--Broadcast/Acreage	0	0	0.0	0
Debris Burn--Auth--Piles	1	2.94	0.1	0.01
Debris Burn--Auth--Yard Trash	1	2.94	1.0	0.05
Debris Burn--Nonauth--Broadcast/Acreage	0	0	0.0	0
Debris Burn--Nonauth--Piles	5	14.71	717.0	36.69
Debris Burn--Nonauth--Yard Trash	3	8.82	49.0	2.51
Equipment use*	0	0	0.0	0
Equipment--Agriculture	1	2.94	22.0	1.13
Equipment--Logging	0	0	0.0	0
Equipment--Recreation	1	2.94	2.0	0.10
Equipment--Transportation	0	0	0.0	0
Incendiary	3	8.82	905.0	46.31
Lightning	12	35.29	212.6	10.88
Miscellaneous --Breakout	0	0	0.0	0
Miscellaneous --Electric Fence	0	0	0.0	0
Miscellaneous --Fireworks	0	0	0.0	0
Miscellaneous --Power Lines	0	0	0.0	0
Miscellaneous --Structure	1	2.94	20.0	1.02
Miscellaneous--Other	0	0	0.0	0
Railroad	0	0	0.0	0
Smoking	0	0	0.0	0
Unknown	2	5.88	23.2	1.19
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>		<b>1,954.2</b>	



# Florida Forest Service, District 16 - Indian River County

## ATTACHMENT: B (Authorizations by type)

Burn Type	Authorized Fires	Authorized Acres	Authorized Piles
Agricultural--Pasture	289	3,060	1,237
Agricultural--Range management	42	1,599	38
Agricultural--Stubble (post-harvest)	11	0	36
Agricultural--Sugarcane	0	0	0
Agriculture--Citrus	262	0	1,468
Land clearing--Non-residential--With ACI	9	0	42
Land clearing--Non-residential--Without ACI	34	0	116
Land clearing--Residential--With ACI	0	0	0
Land clearing--Residential--Without ACI	11	0	14
Silvicultural--Disease control	0	0	0
Silvicultural--Ecological	13	27,416	1
Silvicultural--Hazard removal	5	7,400	0
Silvicultural--Other	0	0	0
Silvicultural--Prior to seed	0	0	0
Silvicultural--Site preparation	0	0	0
Silvicultural--Wildlife	2	45	0
Total	678	39,520	2,952