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The Rural Fire Prevention Campaign of the National Fire Waste Council

Strom Thurmond

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Governor J. Strom Thurmond today called attention to a national campaign to prevent rural fire waste being sponsored by Chambers of Commerce of the nation through their National Fire Waste Council.

Governor Thurmond said the "primary importance" of forests and forest products to the economy of the State made it highly desirable that farmers, land owners, and other residents of rural areas make every effort to cooperate with this rural fire prevention campaign.

"Forests, forest products, and forest influences are of tremendous importance to the economy, health, and happiness of every citizen in South Carolina," Governor Thurmond said. "Our forests, under past methods of handling, have deteriorated greatly. Their benefits and values can be multiplied three-fold, or more, if they are properly handled in the future. The first step in proper management of our forests is adequate fire protection. To be really effective, South Carolina's forest fire control organization must have the active volunteer assistance of all citizens in fire prevention, pre-suppression measures, and in actual fire fighting.

"Highly trained and well equipped rangers, wardens, tractor operators, and towermen of the county unit organizations of our Forestry Commission are ready to aid the fire prevention campaign with 135 lookout towers, tools, and mobile equipment. But the bulk of the responsibility rests with the landowners themselves.

"During the past five years 22,028 forest fires have been reported as having occurred in South Carolina, an average of 4,406 annually. These fires burned over 793,905 acres of woodland, an average of 36 acres per fire. Such losses should be cut down, and they can be reduced materially by the active participation of..."
our landowners in a fire prevention campaign."

The rural fire prevention campaign is being launched through the Agriculture Committee of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, with Dennis C. Smith, of Chicago, as chairman.