



For more information, contact the  
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**We encourage you  
to replace existing  
pine straw with an  
alternative material  
and discourage any  
future use of pine  
straw.**

**The North Carolina  
State University  
Cooperative  
Extension has given  
all native pine  
species a high  
flammability rating  
in their Firewise  
Landscaping  
publication.**

# PINE STRAW ADVISORY WARNING

The Town of Sunset Beach has determined, along with many other jurisdictions, that pine straw used as ground cover around the base of a structure is a serious fire hazard. This past July, a grill containing embers from a previous fire tipped over and ignited pine straw around the grill. The fire quickly spread to surrounding homes and eventually destroyed one home on the Island and damaged four other houses.

In order to reduce the spread of fire, the Town of Sunset Beach encourages our home owners to use alternative bark mulch materials for landscaping. The close proximity of structures in our community, particularly on the Island, creates a fire hazard situation that is further exacerbated by the presence of flammable materials such as pine straw.

The municipalities of Raleigh, Durham, Cary, and Carrboro have recently adopted ordinances restricting the use of pine straw near commercial and multi-family structures, and the Town of Sunset Beach is considering an ordinance to likewise restrict the use of pine straw near these types of structures. Although we do not at this time plan to ban pine straw around homes, the Town strongly discourages the use of pine straw on all properties in our Town.

Pine straw is more flammable than mulch – it dries out faster which results in faster combustion. Although mulch can be more expensive, most mulch products will last longer than pine straw. We strongly urge you to replace existing pine straw around your home with mulch or other materials not as flammable as pine straw. We also encourage landscaping companies to recommend that residents not use pine straw.

The “Firewise Landscaping in North Carolina” publication is available in the Fire Department section of the Town website [www.sunsetbeachnc.gov](http://www.sunsetbeachnc.gov). For additional information visit [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org).

**Thank you for your cooperation!**