



City of Madison Fire Department

News Release

Date: Sunday, April 19, 2009

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Shady Leaf Fire Caused By Hot Ashes Placed In Plastic Container

City of Madison Fire Investigators have determined the fire on Shady Leaf Road on Friday, April 17 was accidental in nature. Hot ashes melted through a plastic container, setting the garage on fire.

Damage from the fire caused an estimated \$800,000 damage, which destroyed several homes. No one was injured.

Safety Information on the Disposing of Hot Ashes

Hot ashes, cinders or smoldering coals should not be deposited in a combustible container and not be placed within 10 feet of other combustible materials. According to the National Fire Protection Agency, 9870 house fires are caused yearly due to improperly discarded ashes.

- Wood ashes retain enough heat to ignite other combustible materials for several days. Hot coals, hidden in a pile of ashes can stay hot for up to four days.
- Never empty ashes into paper or plastic containers, or cardboard box.
- Ashes should be stored in a metal container with a tight fitting lid; this helps keep air from blowing through and disturbing ashes which can leave hot coals exposed for reignition.

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