



Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

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Forestry Employee Awarded for Wildland Fire Prevention Efforts *Veteran employee honored for educating youth*

FRANKFORT, Ky. (July 6, 2011) – Kentucky Division of Forestry (KDF) Ranger Technician Ricky Parnell recently received the Robert E. Browning, Jr. Award for his excellence in wildland fire prevention efforts. The U.S. Forest Service, Southern Region, selected Parnell for this honor based on his efforts to educate children and young adults about the dangers of forest fires. The award is given in honor of Robert E. Browning Jr., a South Carolina wildland firefighter who lost his life on Storm King Mountain, Colorado in 1994.

Parnell is a forest ranger technician in Metcalfe County and has been with KDF more than 11 years. As a forest ranger technician, Parnell fights forest fires, inspects timber harvest operations and conducts forest fire prevention education programs. He also works with residents, local officials and the media to help prevent and reduce the number of fires.

Leah MacSwords, KDF director and state forester, said, "Parnell is to be commended for his ability to relay such an important message to our communities. Educating our youth and encouraging them to become responsible citizens in protecting our forest resources could not be accomplished without the energetic work of field staff like Parnell."

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Editor's Note: The Kentucky Division of Forestry, headquartered in Frankfort, manages nine district offices with forestry staff assigned to every county in Kentucky for the purpose of providing services to the citizens of the Commonwealth. The agency's mission is to protect and enhance Kentucky's forest resources through public informed of the environmental, social and economic importance of forests.