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## RIVERDALE - Brush fire quickly quelled

*(by Leslie Scott - Staff Writer - February 18, 2009)*

**RIVERDALE** — It took the Riverdale and Kinnelon fire departments along with the New State Forrest Fire Service two hours to douse a brush fire that burned about an acre of land last weekend.

This occurred at the end of Wesley Street. Police Captain John Peine said on Feb. 14 at 1:15 p.m. the Kinnelon Fire Chief was on the opposite side of the Route 23 and observed smoke coming from the wooded area.

“The chief and the Riverdale Police both investigated and found a large brush fire,” said the captain.

No properties were in danger said Peine.

“The way the wind was going, it was blowing away from the home,” he added.

“Luckily, the winds weren’t what they were before, otherwise it would have been a real problem,” said Riverdale Fire Chief Mike Norton.

The only problem the volunteers had was finding enough water to use to put out the fire.

Kinnelon assisted because they have a tanker that carries 35,000 gallons of water. “They are used to hauling water because there are not many fire hydrants in Kinnelon,” said Norton.

Norton said the departments used 6,000 gallons to put out the flames.

It is not certain at this time how it started.

“The crews that were up there working found a fire ring, like maybe someone had a little camp fire going. I’m not positive there was no one seen in the area,” said Norton.

This area is not a camp site.

“Any burning of that type would be against Borough ordinance,” the chief also said.

The investigation of this incident is being completed by the Forrest Service.

The Wanaque First Aid Squad also offered assistance during this incident.

[^ back to top](#)