

1,200 flee Nova Scotia wildfire

by UPI

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia -- A wind-driven wildfire burned almost 1,000 acres in Halifax, Nova Scotia, early Friday, forcing some 1,200 people from their homes, authorities said.

No injuries had been reported as the Canadian Red Cross mobilized to set up shelters and communications facilities.

Late Thursday, Halifax Mayor Peter Kelly said eight homes had been destroyed and an untold number of others badly damaged, the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. reported.

"The fire is not under control," Kelly said. "We want people to stay away."

The blaze broke out Thursday afternoon, said Capt. Dave Meldrum, spokesman for the Halifax regional fire service.

Meldrum said the forested area in the Spryfield region is "surprisingly dry" for the time of year, The Chronicle-Herald newspaper in Halifax reported.

Welcome rain was expected but the forecast also included winds of 35 mph, which would help spread the fire, the newspaper said.

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