

ARKANSAS FIRE & ICE PRACTICE PRESCRIBED BURNING

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The Arkansas Forestry Commission has been awarded an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) grant through the US Forest Service for wildfire hazard reduction on property in Arkansas impacted by the ice storm of January 2009. A portion will be used to assist non-industrial private forest landowners through grants to implement forest practices on affected property.



A written prescribed burn plan must be submitted and approved by the Arkansas Forestry Commission before implementing the burn.

Arkansas Smoke Management Guidelines should be followed in preparation and implementation of the Fuel Hazard Reduction Burn. The Arkansas Smoke Management Guidelines publication can be obtained from the Arkansas Forestry Commission or viewed online at www.arkansasforestry.org/manage/smoke_management.pdf

A good Prescribed Burn Plan will include the following practice standard components for a Fuel Hazard Reduction Burn.

- Location and description of the burn area.
- Pre-burn vegetation cover.
- Resource management objectives.
- Acceptable weather conditions for prescribed burn. Notification check list.
- Pre-burn preparation.
- Equipment checklist/personnel assignments and needs/safety requirements.
- Post burn evaluation criteria.
- Firing sequence.
- Ignition method.
- Approval signatures

The procedure, equipment, and the number of trained personnel shall be adequate to accomplish the intended purposes.

All burns shall include appropriate firebreaks to conduct a safe burn.

The expected weather conditions, human and vehicular traffic that may be impeded by heat or smoke, liability (e.g., utility lines) and safety and health precautions shall be integrated into the timing, location and expected intensity of the burn.

Timing of burning will be commensurate with soil and site conditions to maintain site productivity and minimize effects on soil erosion and soil properties (structure, soil moisture).

Weather parameters and other data that affect fire behavior should be monitored during the burn.

Consider the location of utilities such as electric power lines and natural gas pipelines to prevent

damage to the utility and avoid personal injury.

Smoke impacts must be considered before the burn and should be monitored during the burn. See "Arkansas Voluntary Smoke Management Guidelines," for proper planning of smoke

Considerations

Productive woodlands with quality trees intended for timber production may be subject to fire scarring. The burn prescription should specify fires with low heat intensities in these timber stands.

Existing barriers such as lakes, streams, wetlands, roads, and constructed firebreaks are important to the design and layout of this practice.

A minimum of 50 percent fuel reduction must be accomplished for the entire targeted area for the prescribed burn to be considered adequate.

The Arkansas Forestry Commission (1-800-830-8015), County Sheriff's Office, and local fire department must be notified prior to the ignition of the burn. Notifying the Arkansas Forestry Commission is a requirement of Arkansas State Law.

Notify adjoining landowners as appropriate within the air shed prior to burning.

Plans and Specifications

Specifications will be prepared by certified individuals and prepared for each site and recorded using approved specification sheets, job sheets, technical notes and narrative statements in the burn plan. All necessary permits must be obtained and a burning plan developed and approved by Arkansas Forestry Commission before implementation of the practice.

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To learn more about how stimulus funds will be distributed in Arkansas, visit the Arkansas State Recovery Office web site at www.recovery.arkansas.gov, or call the Arkansas Recovery Hotline at 1-877-682-1515. The Arkansas Forestry Commission offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability; and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.