

Prescribed Burning

Shelby County

Why prescribed burning?

Prescribed burns are controlled fires that are purposefully set under a specific set of conditions in order to meet management objectives. When properly managed, these fires rejuvenate natural areas, creating lush grass growth that provides habitat for wildlife, and increases native plant diversity. Employing prescribed burns on your land is one of the best things you can do to promote stand health and wildlife habitat.

Management objectives and goals

No fire should be lit without first establishing a set of management objectives. These objectives are your purpose for burning and what you want to accomplish with the burn. Management objectives determine the optimal timing and conditions under which the burn will be conducted. For example, the purpose of the burn may be to set back cool-season grasses and promote warm season native grasses, with the long term goal of improving pheasant habitat. Local NRCS staff and natural resource professionals can help you identify the goals and objectives you have for your stand.

Safety starts with a burn plan

Burn plans are a necessary component of prescribed fire. They detail vital information for conducting a safe prescribed burn that fulfills management objectives. Burn plans should be planned by trained personnel. Information about burn plans is available at your local NRCS office or through the practitioners on the reverse side.

Attaining a burn permit

In order to perform a prescribed burn in Shelby County, you will need to acquire a burn permit issued by your local fire department one month prior to the burn (see contact info on reverse). A burn plan does not constitute a burn permit.

Pre-burn timetable

Being safe means being prepared. It is the landowner's responsibility to ensure the site is properly prepared prior to burning and notifications are made in advance of the burn. Follow the following timetable to prepare for your prescribed burn.

12 Months Prior to Burn

- Develop Prescribed Burn Plan
- Mow firebreaks bi-monthly during growing season before burn
- Remove dead trees and brush piles that are within 20 feet of firebreaks
- Scout for any safety concerns to burn crew, such as poison ivy or old fence wire

3 Months Prior to Burn

- Notify adjacent landowners/neighbors of intent to conduct a prescribed burn. Ask if residents have medical conditions that would worsen if there is smoke
- Arrange for crew and equipment needed

1 Month Prior to Burn

- Obtain necessary permits from fire department (Fire department contact info on reverse)
- Clear vegetation around access points for vehicle entry to burn area

1-2 Days Prior to Burn

- Check weather forecast for day of burn
- Notify adjacent landowners/neighbors of intent to conduct prescribed burn
- Drive around site to check firebreaks and access points
- Test to insure that all burn equipment is functioning properly

Day of Burn

- Check weather forecast
- Review pre-burn checklist prior to ignition (included in burn plan)
- Ensure remnant livestock, equipment, pets are removed if needed
- Notify fire department, governmental units, etc.
 - E911 Center Non-emergency – (712) 755-2124
 - Fire department contact info on reverse
- Be sure burn crew understands the implementation plan

Prescribed Burn Practitioners

Shelby County

Prescribed burns should only be planned and implemented by trained personnel. Listed below are private vendors and governmental entities that offer prescribed fire as a service in the county. These practitioners are able to assist landowners with all aspects of prescribed burning and can help you make your fire as safe and effective as possible.

Emergency Management / E911

Agency	Mailing Address	Phone	Contact Name
Shelby County Emergency Management E911 Communications Center	612 Court St Harlan IA, 51537	Non-emergency line (712) 755-2124	Jason Wickizer

Contractors

Company	Mailing Address	Phone/Email	Contact Name
Chloeta Fire	2501 Liberty Pky #176 Midwest City OK, 73110	(877) 245-6382 cdodrigill@chloetafire.com	Chet Dodrigill
CRP Services, LLC	PO Box 592 Albia IA, 52531	(641) 799-3480	Kirby Schultz
Custom Seeding and Habitat	11 Timber Ridge Humboldt IA, 51548	(515) 890-7043 customseeding@yahoo.com	John Kollmorgen
Freedom Creek Prairie freedomcreekprairie.com	2574 190th St Prescott IA, 50859	(641) 344-4722	Rick Schafer
Hunters' Management Group	2803 Newton Rd Promise City IA, 52583	(641) 895-2305 brady.bloomquist@hmgiaowa.com	Brady Bloomquist
Prudenterra prudenterra.com	65584 260th St Nevada IA, 50201	(515) 451-1202 luke@prudenterra.com	Luke Gran
Wohlers Fire Equipment LLC	Council Bluffs IA	(402) 578-1935 kody.wohlers@gmail.com	Kody Wohlers

Fire Department Districts

City	Mailing Address	Phone	Contact Name
Defiance	205 3rd Ave, Defiance IA, 51527	(712) 579-1191	Alan Wilwerding
Earling	PO Box 206, Earling IA, 51530	(712) 577-6789	Scott Schiltz
Elk Horn	4147 Main St, Elk Horn IA, 51531	(712) 249-6025	Andy Ring
Harlan	PO Box 650, Harlan IA, 51537	(712) 755-5354	
Irwin	PO Box 26, Irwin IA, 51446	(712) 579-1985	Lynn Gaskill
Kirkman	1413 Peach Rd, Kirkman IA, 51447	(712) 766-3231	Mike Rasmussen
Panama	PO Box 128, Panama IA, 51562	(712) 592-0329	Kerry Pauley
Portsmouth	PO Box 128, Portsmouth IA, 51565	(712) 579-9679	Bill Slaven
Shelby	PO Box 51, Shelby IA, 51570	(402) 689-3705	Ron Kroll
Westphalia	PO Box 8, Westphalia IA, 51578	(712) 579-0787	John Henscheid

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2519 Southwest Ave.
Harlan, IA 51537

Phone: (712) 755-2417, ext. 3
Fax: (855) 233-1297



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