



SOUTHERN BLUE RIDGE PRESCRIBED BURN ASSOC

Burn Checklist

Advance work:

- Become a **NC Certified Burner** by completing the NC Forest Service's Burner Certification Course (recommended).
- Develop a **Prescribed Burn Plan** for your burn unit.
- Construct adequate **Firebreaks/Firelines** to contain fire in your burn unit.
- Prepare** for and cut, rake, blow around, or remove dead trees and potential hot spots like brush piles, fallen tree tops, debris piles, snags, lighter stumps, etc. near fire lines.
- Determine the number of **people required** to safely burn your unit and contact them. Utilize the SBR-PBA for outreach if you need more personnel.
- Remind your burn crew to wear **appropriate clothing and PPE** (sturdy leather boots, cotton/non-synthetic shirt and pants).
- Get a **Burn Permit** from the NCFS website or by calling the NCFS during business hours. Burn permits are good for up to 30 days.
- Contact adjacent landowners and neighbors** by phone calls, mail, or in person at least 2-4 weeks prior to the burn. Keep records of these notifications and your burn permit.

Non-Emergency Communication by County

Avery: (828) 733-8210 Buncombe: (828) 250-6670 Burke: (828) 437-1911
Caldwell: (828) 758-2324 Madison: (828) 649-3602 McDowell: (828) 659-2241
Mitchell: (828) 688-9110 Yancey: (828) 678-9463

Day of Burn:

- Check **current local weather conditions**. Are they within the range identified as ‘acceptable’ in your Burn Plan? Keep updated on the weather conditions throughout the day, and **document all forecasts and site conditions**.
 - Use the NC Forest Service’s Fire Weather Intelligence Portal: <http://climate.ncsu.edu/fwip/index.php> for checklist items such as relative humidity, temperature, wind speed, wind direction, and vent rate.
 - Use the National Weather Service/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration website for checklist items such as 1 hour fuels, 10 hour fuels, days since rain and drought index: <http://www.weather.gov/rah/fire>
- Check equipment** and make sure you have everything you need, and that it is all in good working order and safe to use.
- Contact emergency services** before and after your burn, in your county. Let them know it’s a non-emergency call.
- Contact your neighbors**, particularly those with properties adjacent to the burn unit. Remind them you’ll be conducting a prescribed burn.
- Make sure you have an adequate number of people on your **Burn Crew**. Check that all members of the burn crew are properly dressed and in good physical condition.
- Review the Burn Plan** with your burn crew; include safety information and emergency plans, and make sure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities.
- Re-check your firebreaks and firelines**. Make sure they contain no burnable materials. Take down or rake around any dead trees that could fall across the firebreak.
- Conduct a **test burn** to check that the prescribed fire will behave as predicted, smoke can be managed as planned, and the desired results can be obtained. If the fire and smoke behavior do not match expectations, decide if a safe burn can be conducted and the smoke managed adequately; **if not, put the fire out and CANCEL THE BURN**. Implement your burn plan **IF AND ONLY IF** conditions meet the prescription described in the burn plan.
- Mop up** after the burn to prevent re-ignition of the fire and to reduce post-burn smoke problems. **Mop up is extremely important**. Most fires escape and spot over by smoldering fuels, such as snags close to the line, after the initial fire has passed. Fires can restart even a few days after the burn. Complete the burn evaluation to determine if it met your objectives and went as planned. Note items to consider at the next burn at this location. Visit the burn site at least once daily until the fire is completely out.