

PRESCRIBED FIRE NEWSLETTER



upcoming events >>>

2022 Alabama Prescribed Fire Council Annual Meeting

Clanton, AL
September 8, 2022

[Register](#)

AFA Annual Meeting

Orange Beach, AL
September 12-14, 2022

[Register](#)

Alabama Women Owning Woodlands & Brunch

Phenix City, AL
September 23, 2022

Register: Russell County Extension (334) 298-6845

Alabama Natural Resources Council Annual Meeting

October 27-28, 2022

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Important Contact Information

To Obtain a Burn Permit:
(800) 392-5679

For Fire Weather Resources:
[Alabama Forestry Commission](#)

Prescribed Burn Insurance Application:
[Alabama Forestry Association](#)



2022 Learn and Burns

Prescribed fire is a tool land managers use to improve forest stand health and wildlife habitat. It is one of the most cost effective management tools for landowners. This year the Alabama Forestry Foundation, along with other agency and organizational partners, provided land managers opportunities to actively participate in live prescribed burn demonstrations. The goal of these burns was to build confidence and capability for landowners to perform prescribed burns on their own property. Participants were given the opportunity to discuss weather conditions, prescribed burn plans, use hand tools, experience different ignition patterns and hold containment lines all while networking with fellow landowners and professionals.

The Foundation hosted Learn and Burns in nine different Alabama counties. These events provided a hands-on learning opportunity to over 240 landowners, government agency personnel and professionals. During events, participants were placed in groups led by at least one experienced Alabama Certified Burn Manager and mentor. This gave participants the

opportunity to ask questions, observe techniques and strategies, and hear personal experiences.

Events were held in a variety of fuel types, from the pine hardwood hills of Jefferson County to the highly volatile Yaupon and Cogongrass in Baldwin and Escambia Counties. So far this year, over 2,300 acres have been burned during events from February to June.

In order to gain feedback from attendees, Alabama Cooperative Extension System conducted an evaluation. Results show a majority of attendees were private landowners who had not conducted a prescribed burn on their property. However, after participating, these same landowners responded that prescribed fire will be incorporated into their management regimens in the future.

Attending a Learn and Burn can equip attendees with another tool in their toolbox while providing an opportunity to network with other landowners and land management professionals.



PRESCRIBED FIRE NEWSLETTER— FALL 2022



Smoke Management

Anytime you are planning for a prescribed burn, you should manage that fire to reduce the smoke impacts to the public. Perhaps the stand was once located in a completely rural area, and is now neighboring schools, subdivisions, and shopping centers. With more and more urban sprawl it can be intimidating to incorporate prescribed fire in your management, especially when it comes to smoke management. But burning in areas close to these sensitive spots can be done with some pre-planning.

All burns include aspects of smoke management including minimizing smoke, transporting smoke away from smoke sensitive areas, and mitigation of issues. Good smoke management requires the burner to understand how several different factors come together to influence smoke behavior. Weather, such as wind directions and speed, humidity, precipitation, and mixing height can all come together to create the perfect scenario to burn in a particular location. It's important that your burn plan includes the ideal conditions for each, and the burner is patient to wait for those conditions to occur before ignition.

Topography can also play a key role in mitigating smoke management risks. Understanding how smoke moves from higher elevations, and collects at lower elevations, such as streams and valleys can impact your plans for burning. The influence of topography on smoke movement can impact local roads and bridges and should factor into a burn plan for high traffic areas.

With all these factors, and others, in mind, what can you do? Here are a few tips for burning in areas that may have multiple smoke sensitive areas to consider:

- Prepare multiple, smaller burn units, so you can match conditions to the individual area
- Monitor weather before, during, and after a burn
- Place signage on the roadway to alert drivers
- Evaluate smoke dispersion with test fire
- Consider using a different firing technique
- Do NOT burn if conditions are not ideal!



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