

Regulation
No. 1130-2-32

12 October 2001

Project Operations
Project Fire Management

1. Purpose. The purpose of this regulation is to provide guidelines to Little Rock District project managers and employees in fire management operations, including prescribed burning, and preparing and responding to wildfire situations. The regulation is intended to be flexible; therefore, of value to all projects, and to provide the necessary foundation to establish standards for all fire management operations.
2. Applicability. This memorandum is to be implemented at all Corps of Engineers water resource development projects in the Little Rock District.
3. References.
 - a. ER 1130-2-540, Project Operations, Environmental Stewardship Operations and Maintenance Policies dated 15 November 1996.
 - b. National Wildfire Coordinating Group. 1993. National Interagency Incident Management System, Wildland Fire Qualification Guide 310-1.
 - c. National Wildfire Coordinating Group. 2000. Wildfire and Prescribed Fire Qualification System Guide, National Wildfire Coordinating Group, Incident Operations Standards Working Team.
4. Public Safety. If a wildfire threat is considered eminent, potential impacts on public safety should immediately be evaluated. It is imperative that no communication be taken for granted in notifying the visiting public related to the danger from fire and keeping resident and project office personnel informed. An immediate communication should be opened between the park ranger or park attendant nearest the fire and resident or project office to insure that there is an appropriate first response and that future decisions related to extinguishing the fire can be based on the most accurate information. Local law enforcement and fire fighting response agencies

This regulation supersedes SWLOM 1130-2-32 dated 4 March 1991.

should be kept informed. Project Managers or their counterparts may authorize evacuations for Public Safety. In the event evacuation is deemed necessary, the evacuation needs to be orderly. Instructions should be simple, clearly stated, and easily understood. Project Offices and Gate Shacks should have emergency phone numbers and a prior action plan established in the event of wildfires. All new employees and gate attendants should be briefed, and action plans should be routinely discussed and re-evaluated during employee safety meetings prior to recreation seasons and/or high fire danger periods, and with gate attendants during pre-work conferences. Burn Bans and posted notices during periods of high fire danger, notifications in local papers, coordination with local governments and other appropriate restrictions are some methods by which projects may control the danger of wildfires in public use area. Periodic fuels reduction prescribed burns during the off season are useful in controlling hazardous fuel levels, but should be accomplished in conjunction with written prescribed burn plans, professional fire crews, and coordinated with appropriate agencies.

5. Local Flexibility. Operations Managers may develop a fully trained and qualified project fire management force at project locations if the program is based on the training and certification requirements established in the Wildland Fire Qualifications Subsystem Guide 310-1, Parts one and two, prepared by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG). Compliance with training and certification requirements will be the responsibility of the Operations Manager or his designated evaluator. The project would act as the Home Unit for deployment, if applicable. Projects that would not benefit from this level of operation may elect to develop OMP fire protection plans that depend on local agency agreements solely or in part.

6. Employee Safety. Local initiative may be the most effective in determining how much training is needed, how much is available, from whom, and which employees need it. However, all individuals who will be actively engaged in support of prescribed burning activities must receive, at a minimum, training comparable to the standard fire fighting training: S-110, Basic Fire Suppression; S-130, Basic Fire; and I-100, Incident Command System Orientation. This training is also recommended for individuals who might be first responders to wildfire situations. All Employees confronted with wildfire situations may, of necessity, participate in evacuation, dispatch, or other indirect duties when the situation merits. However, only adequately trained and physically fit personnel, as referenced under employee fitness, are recommended to engage in extinguishing a wildfire situation other than those considered easily extinguishable and unthreatening. Appropriate training may be coordinated through the District Forester, or through the Arkansas-Oklahoma interagency Coordinating Center, (www.fs.fed.us/oonf/fire/index.html).

7. Employee Fitness. Any individual who will be actively engaged in conducting prescribed burning must enroll in the project office medical surveillance program, and receive a doctor's physical and clearance to be able to perform arduous, moderate, or light physical exercise depending on the individual's fitness level. Through proper planning, prescribed fires should not exceed moderate intensity. The individual along with the doctor will be responsible for assessing the individual's abilities with respect to fitness level and individuals generally should

govern the extent and pace of their physical activity. The individual will arrange for appropriate duty through the Operations Manager. Operation's Managers may elect to appoint a project contact person to act in this capacity. Project personnel designated to coordinate Fire Management requirements or evaluate fire training needs should receive advanced fire management training, and have a thorough knowledge of fire management and qualifications established under the 1999 Wildland and Prescribed Fire Qualification System PMS 310-1, established by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (www.fed.us/fire/310-1/)

8. Equipment, Vehicles, and Personal Protective Equipment. In times of high fire danger, backpack sprayers and flappers should be carried in each ranger and inspection vehicle. Individuals with the proper equipment can extinguish small fires with quick action. Other equipment should be readily available at the resident or project office. In no case should vehicles be parked in an area where there is the possibility that heat, sparks, or fire could damage or cause combustible parts to burn. On projects where the potential for threats from wildfire are considered high, and/or local response may be delayed, adequate first response equipment such as backpack sprayers or small vehicle mounted pumpers are recommended. All equipment and tools should be inventoried, serviced, and readied annually and when local fire danger becomes high. Employees directly involved in fire management activities will use the proper personal protective equipment (PPE) as recommended in the safety manual. However, steel toe shoes will be discretionary to the individual per the recommendations under the National Wildfire Coordinating Group.

9. Fire Fighting Agreements. To accomplish wildland fire management for prescribed burn and fire control, the projects may enter into reciprocal agreements with appropriate public organizations or agencies. Such agreements may provide for re-imbursement of any or all costs incurred in performing wildland fire management actions on Corps lands for prescribed burn and fire management activities. Such agreements should include a waiver from claims for compensation (typically reciprocal) of any loss, damage, personal injury, or death resulting in the performance of the agreement. Operations Managers are encouraged to accomplish wildland fire management through reciprocal agreements and/or appropriately trained and equipped personnel. Fire Management requires close and continuous coordination with other resource management and fire control agencies to ensure mutual understanding of respective levels of responsibility and reciprocity.

10. Fire Reports. Appendix A is a check-off fire reporting form (SWL 423) and Appendix B is a sample Prescribed Burn Plan. SWL Form 423 will provide an informational document when hired labor or local fire departments or districts are called to respond to fires on the project. Appendix 2, the Arkansas Forestry Commission's Prescribed Burn Plan standard form will provide an informational document for developing prescribed burn plans provided project personnel have the appropriate training and authority. These forms are examples to be used and may be modified for individual project use. Completed forms will be maintained at the Resident or Project Office. The district Forester should also be notified of fire management activities to facilitate any public inquiries. When park facilities are damaged by fire, a memorandum will be

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drafted detailing the extent of the fire, the estimated amount of damages, and an estimate of the time that the facility will be lost to the public.

Appendix (2)

1. Appendix A, Fire Fighting and Response
2. Appendix B, Prescribed Burn Plan

Distribution: F


BENJAMIN H. BUTLER
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Commanding

APPENDIX A

LITTLE ROCK DISTRICT
FIRE FIGHTING AND RESPONSE

- 1. PROJECT: _____
- 2. DATE: _____
- 3. TIME OF NOTIFICATION: _____
- 4. LOCATION: _____

- 5. CAUSE OF FIRE: _____
- 6. TYPE OF RESPONSE: _____

- 7. PERSONNEL INVOLVED (CORPS AND OTHER): _____

- 8. EQUIPMENT USED (CORPS AND OTHER): _____

- 9. EXTENT OF LOSS: _____
- 10. PRIVATE PROPERTY LOSS: _____

- 11. TIME EXTINGUISHED THE FIRE: _____
- 12. ESTIMATED ACREAGE BURNED: _____
- 13. RELATED INJURIES AND/OR DEATHS: _____
- 14. INDIVIDUAL MAKING REPORT: _____

APPENDIX B

**ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION
PRESCRIBED BURN PLAN**

1. UNIT INFORMATION

Landowner's name and
phone#: _____
Tract size
(acres): _____
Location
(S/T/R): _____

County: _____

2. OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION BEFORE BURN

AFC Dispatch: _____

Sheriffs: _____

FireDept.: _____

3. NEIGHBOR NOTIFICATIONS (within ¼ mile)

Name & Phone: _____

Name & Phone: _____

Name & Phone: _____

Name & Phone: _____

Name & Phone: _____

4. PRESCRIBED BURN OBJECTIVE

- Natural Regeneration site prep
- Artificial Regeneration site prep
- Windrows
- Slash

- Other (define) _____
- Undesirable Species _____
- Hazard Reduction _____
- Wildlife Habitat _____

Other burn objectives: _____

PREPARED
Burn Boss: _____
Date: _____

APPROVED
Supervisor _____
Date: _____

5. MANAGING THE BURN (Describe how each of the following will be addressed)

Fireline preparation: _____

Firing Techniques: _____

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Fire sensitive areas (adjacent young pine plantations, buildings, etc.): _____

Smoke sensitive areas (smoke screening map prepared on topographic and/or county road that will identify roads, drainages, and residences): _____

Contingencies (include safety zone, escape routes, escape response procedures): _____

BURNING ASSIGNMENTS

Burn Boss: _____

INSTRUCTIONS TO IGNITION PERSONNEL

<u>Ignition Person</u>	<u>Instructions</u>
1) _____	_____

2) _____	_____

DIVISION ASSIGNMENT

Division A
Crew Member

Assignment

Division B
Crew Member

Assignment

Division C
Crew Member

Assignment

Division D
Crew Member

Assignment

Division E
Crew Member

Assignment

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SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT

Crew Member _____

Division Location & Assignment _____

EQUIPMENT ASSIGNMENT BY DIVISION

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
PPE										
Plow Unit										
Torch										
Rakes										
Fuel										
Water										
Food										
Radios										
Extra Radio Battery										
ATV										
Chainsaw										
First Aid Kit										
Other										

Provide for the prescribed burn crew a map with physical and topographic features and division assignment boundaries. Designate safety zones, drop points, and what equipment and materials are located at these drop points.

BURN DAY CHECKLIST

Date of Burn: _____

Parameters	Recommended Do Not Burn Conditions	Recommended Range	Forecasted Weather Conditions
Date of Burn			
Air Temp (°F)			
Relative Humidity (°/°)	< or = 25%		
Prob. Of Ignition	> or = 80%		
Windspeed			
Wind Direction			
Smoke Category Day	1 or 5		

CHECK (✓) AND BURN ONLY IF ALL ITEMS ARE ADDRESSED:

- Burning assignments
- Map for crew
- Extra precautions for fire sensitive areas
- Smoke sensitive areas not threatened
- Official notifications made
- Neighbor notifications made
- Personal Protective Equipment in use
- Transport truck(s) and other equipment in a safe area
- Fireline width adequate
- Forecasted temperature within recommended range
- Forecasted relative humidity > 25%
- Forecasted probability of ignition < 80%
- Forecasted mid flame wind speed within recommended range
- Forecasted wind direction as recommended
- Forecasted smoke Category day 2, 3, or 4

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Hourly Belt Weather Recording During the Burn

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Temp								
RH								
Wind speed								
Wind direction								