

Application for

# Prescribed Burning in New Jersey

on private lands

# 2014



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
STATE FORESTRY SERVICES  
FOREST FIRE SERVICE

## **A message from the State Firewarden**

New Jersey Landowner,

The NJ Forest Fire Service's mission is the protection of life, property, and natural resources from losses due to wildfire. We strive to reduce of hazardous fuel concentrations and to maintain healthy forest ecosystems. When New Jersey's forests are healthy, it improves both the quality of life for our residents and reduces the likelihood of catastrophic loss of property due to uncontrolled wildfire.

Since 1928, prescribed burning has been used as a tool to reduce wildfire hazards through reduction of ground cover fuels and by modifying undergrowth and ladder fuels. Prescribed burning is defined as: *the preplanned and controlled application of fire to existing, naturally occurring fuels, under specified environmental conditions; following appropriate precautionary measures, which allows the fire to be confined to a predetermined area and accomplishes the planned land management objectives.*

The goal of prescribed burning is to prevent wildfires from starting and to reduce the potential that wildfires will burn intensely and spread to improved property. As a preventative and protective technique, prescribed burning also facilitates fire-fighting operations by improving access for suppression equipment, reducing the likelihood that embers will cause spot fires, and by reducing the intensity of spot fires that may occur.

Prescribed burning is an effective and cost-efficient tool for reducing hazardous fuels. If implemented properly, prescribed burning achieves multiple forest management objectives. On state-owned land, we target close to 20,000 acres annually for treatment. But we also recognize and support private landowners' need to prescribed burn.

Included within this application package you will find instructions, procedures, and supporting documentation to use when completing your application. If you have questions or require assistance in completing your application, please contact your Division Forest Fire Office. Please ensure that all elements of your application and Prescribed Burn Plan are filled out completely.

Thank you for your interest in wildfire prevention, and for your cooperation in supporting safe and effective burning operations.

Sincerely Yours,

William Edwards  
State Firewarden

## Part I. PRESCRIBED BURNING APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND INSTRUCTIONS

- Check for municipal restrictions that may restrict open burning.
- Complete the Prescribed Burn Plan
- Sign the Prescribed Burn Permit (Appendix B) and return with other documents. Once approved a copy of the permit will be returned to you and constitute your official approval to conduct the burn.
- Landowner and/or designated agent must be present on day of burn.
- Notification must be made to Section Forest Firewarden and local officials prior to implementing the burn.
- All areas to be burned must be surrounded by either natural or man-made fire breaks sufficient to prevent the escape of fire from the designated area.
- Fire suppression equipment and personnel should be available to ensure that the fire does not escape its firebreaks.

Prescribed burning must be accomplished in accordance with the following guidelines:

- Time of year – October 1 to March 15
  - Air Temperature – 0° – 60°
  - Best Steady Wind – NW – W – SW – N –S
  - Best Steady Wind Velocity – 5 – 10 mph
  - Relative Humidity – 30% to 50%
  - Fine Fuel Moisture – 5 – 10%
  - Spread Index – 7 – 35
  - Build-up Index – 6 – 40
  - Smoke management practices must be followed.
  - Must notify Section Firewarden 24 hours prior to ignition – See Fire Permit.
- 
- Report your burning accomplishments to the Division Office. Once the prescribed burning season is completed you will receive a postcard to report your accomplishments. Please return the postcard even if you did not burn during the past year.

### Prescribed Burn Plan Application Checklist

- Check municipality for restrictions that may limit open burning
- Submit Application for Prescribed Burning
  - Project Description Give specific reasons that prescribed burning is needed and how it will be accomplished
  - Map showing the specific location of the prescribed burning project as well as adjacent properties and roads (see Appendix A)
- Receive Prescribed Burn Permit
- Notify Section Forest Firewarden and Local Officials of planned dates of burning.
- Return postcard with burning accomplishments.

**Prescribed Burning Plan** \*Please also attach a project description and a map (see Appendix A)

**Applicant Information**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DAYTIME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

**Project Location**

LOCATION (Property where prescribed burning is to be completed):

COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_ TOWNSHIP \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS (specific location) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ACREAGE TO BE BURNED \_\_\_\_\_

Do you plan on requesting assistance from the Forest Fire Service in completing your Prescribed Burning Project?    YES \_\_\_\_\_    NO \_\_\_\_\_

IF YES, what kind of assistance is needed: \_\_\_\_\_

After we review your application, we will contact you to discuss your request for assistance.

NAME OF PROPERTY OWNER (Print) \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail or Deliver the completed forms to the following Forest Fire Service Office:**

**Division A Headquarters**  
240 Main St, Andover, NJ 07821  
(973) 786-6350

Bergen, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Morris,  
Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Warren,  
Hopewell Township, Middlesex County  
north of the Raritan River

**Division B Headquarters**  
PO Box 239  
New Lisbon, NJ 08064  
(609) 726-9010

Burlington, Monmouth, Ocean, and Middlesex

**Division C Headquarters**  
5555 Atlantic Ave.  
Mayslanding, NJ 08330  
(609) 625-1121

Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland,  
Gloucester, and Salem.

NOTE: Upon approval and this application a Prescribed Burning Permit (Appendix B) will be issued.

*FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY*

SECTION \_\_\_\_\_ SECTION FIREWARDEN APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_

DIVISION FIREWARDEN APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SECTION \_\_\_\_\_ SECTION FIREWARDEN APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_

DIVISION FIREWARDEN APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

# APPENDIX A: Authorization for Prescribed Burning on Private Land

The New Jersey State Department of Environmental Protection (Forest Fire Service) administers prescribed burning through Title 7, Chapter 27. The administrative Code is as follows:

## 7:27-2.6 PRESCRIBED BURNING

- Department may issue a permit authorizing prescribed burning in accordance with a plan approved by and under the control and supervision of the New Jersey Forest Fire Service.
- The permit may be conditioned upon meteorological factors and any other requirements, which the NJ Forest Fire Service deems to be necessary and is revocable at the discretion of the Department.
- The permit may be issued for a single event or for a period of days, and no prescribed burning shall commence until a permit is issued and current.
- Any person seeking a permit for prescribed burning shall file with the NJ Forest Fire Service a permit application which sets forth the following and any other information requested by the NJ Forest Fire Service.
- The name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the permit application; if such a person is a legal entity, the name, title, and address of the individual authorized to accept service of process on its behalf and the name of the officer in charge of the premises where the prescribed burning is to take place.
- The name and address of the owner of the premises where the prescribed burning is to take place.
- The exact location at which the prescribed burning is to take place.
- A detailed plan describing the specific reasons why the prescribed burning is necessary and how it is to be done.

The use of prescribed burning is intended strictly for the reduction of forest fire hazards. A forest fire hazard is construed to be the accumulation of fuels, which are capable of causing severe damage to woodland, or improved property if ignited by wildfire. A hazardous area is interpreted to be an area containing such an accumulation of these flash fuels that, upon ignition, would result in excessive rate of combustion and may preclude direct forest fire suppression. These hazardous areas normally include the Pineland Region and grass fields or salt marshes located in high fire frequency areas.

Prescribed burning permits shall only be used when, in the opinion of the Division Firewarden, the material to be burned does constitute a forest fire hazard.

# APPENDIX B: PRESCRIBED BURNING PERMIT

PERMIT NO. \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

By Authority contained in Title 13, Chapter 9, Revised Statutes, and Chapter 2, NJAC 7:27-2.1 et seq. Permission is hereby granted to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

To use fire under prescribed conditions to remove hazardous fuels until; \_\_\_\_\_ hours / / \_\_\_\_\_

at the following location: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## PERMIT CONDITIONS

- Prior to burning, contact your Forest Fire Service Division Office at : \_\_\_\_\_ Monday through Friday 8 am to 4 pm. Notification for burning must occur the last business day before a holiday or weekend for the permit to be valid. Additional notifications include:
- Permits are not transferable, must be in possession of the person burning, and must be shown upon request.
- The State's Open Burning Regulations do not permit disposal of rubbish, garbage, trade waste or building materials by open burning. Only natural vegetation including herbaceous and woody plant material may be burned.
- Permit holders are not authorized to burn on properties over which they do not have legal control, without written permission of the owner.
- The permittee and/or property owner must assume all responsibility for their actions and of the agents operating under this permit and for any fire, which may result.
- Regulations as to times, dates, places, and conditions of burning will be strictly observed. Check current restrictions at [www.njwildfire.org](http://www.njwildfire.org).
- Additional conditions: Fire attended at all times and out before leaving. To be burned in accordance with prescribed burning plan prepared by the NJ Forest Fire Service, prior to any burning contact Division Forest Fire Office and local Fire Officials.

PERMIT NOT VALID AFTER \_\_\_\_\_

PERMIT CONDITIONS ACCEPTED BY

APPLICANT: \_\_\_\_\_

FOREST FIREWARDEN: \_\_\_\_\_

## NOTES:

- You must notify and receive authorization from your Section Forest Firewarden and notify local fire officials prior to conducting any burning.
- This permit does not authorize burning that will violate the New Jersey Air Pollution Control Code, New Jersey Uniform Fire Code, or the Forest Fire Prevention and Control Act, violators are subject to fines up to \$5000.00 and permit revocation.