

Ensuring a safe prescribed burn through training

By Brad Christensen,
Gregory Volunteer Fire Department
and Gregory County Emergency
Manager

The mission of the MMRPBA is to promote prescribed burning as a safe range management tool through training, education, and providing resources to its members to conduct prescribed burns in a safe and effective manner.

The MMRPBA by-laws require members to attend training and help with at least one burn before the MMRPBA helps them with their prescribed burns.

The required training's main purpose is to keep everyone safe while limiting liability and meeting management objectives with prescribed burning. The training teaches why you need a burn

plan, what's in the burn plan, and how to implement that burn plan. The plan has who's doing the burn, what is being burned, when the burn is to be conducted to meet management goals, where it is, how it's to be burned, and why the burn is being conducted (the management objectives). The plan includes the prescription or weather requirements (including minimum and maximum temperature, humidity, wind speed and direction), smoke management, communication on the burn, and resources, equipment, and personnel needed to conduct a safe burn that accomplished the management goals.

The training also teaches what is required for adequate fire breaks – where to put the fire breaks, and how to make them near "bombproof." If you are

shearing eastern red cedar trees, the training teaches how far the piles need to be from the fire breaks, or where to "tuck" the sheared trees under the bigger trees so there is adequate fuel to get them to burn. The training teaches how close those tucked trees can be to the fire breaks and how to skip spots in the tucked trees so the igniters, the individuals igniting the burn, can have a break from the heat but the fire continues across those spots without tucked trees.

Separate training teaches how to ignite the burn – how to safely put fire on the ground and how to keep everyone safe while doing so.

With both classroom and hands on training, prescribed burning is a safe, reasonably inexpensive management tool that can yield huge benefits.



Mid-Missouri River Prescribed Burn Association (Brule, Charles Mix, Gregory & Lyman Counties South of I-90) Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

If you own land that may be burned in the future, which county is it located in: _____

Category of membership requested: (Check one)

Individual Membership: (May vote, dues \$25) _____

Organizational Membership: (1 vote/organization, dues \$25) _____

Name of organization represented: _____

Associate Membership: (No vote, no dues) _____

I wish to become a member of the Mid-Missouri River Prescribed Burn Association and agree to pay the applicable \$25.00 membership dues, certify that I have never been convicted of a felony or crime involving arson, sexual misconduct or extreme immorality and, agree to a background check.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Return Application and Membership Fee To:

Sara Grim
35801 Old 1806th Road
Bonesteel, SD 57317

Make membership fee checks payable to: MMRPBA