

PRESCRIBED BURNING COMMUNICATION KIT

Morgan L. Treadwell¹, Carol Baldwin², Lori Bammerlin³, Carissa Wonkka⁴, and Mike Watson⁵

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING THE COMMUNICATIONS KIT

The Communications Kit provides resources to facilitate discussion and interactions within and between those who conduct prescribed burning and local communities.

Resources Found in this Kit:

- 1. Instructions for Using the Communication Kit.** How is the kit organized? This document provides a list and short description of the kit contents.
- 2. Introduction.** Why is it important to communicate about prescribed burning? This document gives an overview of why the kit was developed.
- 3. Overview.** What were the research discoveries, and how are they relevant to prescribed burn associations (PBAs)? This document covers attitudes and beliefs of local elected officials—and who they turn to for expert opinion when making prescribed burning-related decisions.
- 4. Best Practices for Working With Stakeholders.** How can a PBA build support for prescribed burning? This document gives tips and strategies for working with local government officials and community members to present a positive view of prescribed burning by addressing concerns and information needs in a clear, professional manner.
- 5. Stakeholder Identification Chart.** How can you find the right person with whom to initiate discussion? This document gives tips and links to assist you in locating local government and media contacts.

- 6. Talking Points for Discussing Prescribed Burning with Stakeholders.** What topics should you discuss, and what do you say? This document gives you key messages to convey.
- 7. Prescribed Burn Notification.** What type of information is best to inform neighbors about upcoming burns? This document gives an example of what and how to tell about your plans and reassure them about safety measures that are in place.
- 8. Reporting Prescribed Burns.** How can you contribute to the science of prescribed burning? This document describes how PBAs and others can report about their burning activity to advance knowledge about the use and safety of prescribed burning.
- 9. References and Resources.** What web-based resources are available for PBAs? This document lists links to online documents, websites, and other items where you can find additional helpful information.

COMMUNICATION KIT INTRODUCTION

Discussions about prescribed burning can be fraught with tension and misunderstanding. How can the benefits and safety of prescribed burning be better communicated, specifically to local government authorities who regulate and resolve conflict?

The contents of this kit are the direct result of a Joint Fire Science Program-funded research project—Fighting Wildfire with Prescribed Burning in the Southern Great Plains. This research was funded by the Bureau of Land Management Joint Fire Science Program (Contract #L16AC00206) and led by Dr. Urs Kreuter. A summary of the research results was presented in July 2020 during an online workshop, Fighting Fire with Fire.

Workshop attendees requested tools and documents that would assist prescribed burn associations (PBAs)

¹ Associate Professor and Range Extension Specialist – Texas A&M AgriLife Extension San Angelo

² Great Plains Fire Science Exchange

³ Great Plains Fire Science Exchange

⁴ USDA-ARS, Northern Plains Agriculture Research Lab

⁵ Lampasas Prescribed Burn Association

in communicating with local decision makers, such as county commissioners and district judges based on the research results. Researchers, Great Plains Fire Science Exchange, and several prescribed burn associations collaborated in producing this communication kit.

The hope for this kit is that its contents facilitate productive conversations between prescribed burning practitioners and local government authorities, and that understanding and cooperation lead to better outcomes. The use of science-based information in making policy and regulatory decisions that recognize the importance of prescribed burning as a key land management activity is strongly encouraged.

OVERVIEW OF THE PRESCRIBED BURNING COMMUNICATION KIT

Why is there not more Support for Prescribed Burning?

The value of prescribed burning in Great Plains rangelands is well established through nearly a century of research and practice. Improved rangelands and wildlife habitat, increased livestock performance, and reduced wildfire risk around homes and communities are compelling evidence that prescribed fire is necessary and rational.

Except when it is not evident.

Some people are intensely uncomfortable at the thought of deliberately setting a fire. Community members worry about how an escaped fire may damage their property, their communities, and maybe even their lives. Fire control officials wonder if prescribed burners have adequate training to safely use fire and keep it from escaping. County officials consider if prescribed burning will negatively impact their constituency, or harm the county's reputation or infrastructure. Judges ponder situations where they may be required to estimate the value of lost livestock production, indirect damages from smoke, or wildlife income forgone. Caution is also rational and necessary.

Prescribed fire inherently carries risk, as does driving a vehicle, riding a horse, or felling a tree. Things sometimes can go wrong, and it is necessary to consider the repercussions. But it is also true that sometimes excessive precautions can stifle prescribed burning by assuming the risk is greater than it is. How is a balanced approach achieved?

A lack of knowledge about prescribed burning tends to result in attitudes of greater caution than the actual risk would seem to justify. Perceptions can be changed

through introduction of new evidence provided by trusted sources, or through personal experience. How might knowledge of prescribed burning be enhanced and the perception of risk be more equitable?

What Influences Attitudes?

A survey of district county judges in Texas and Oklahoma revealed that uncertainty about the ecological role of fire and how statutes and regulations should be interpreted led to unpredictable outcomes of the few prescribed burning cases that make it into court. While the average time a judge had served was more than 30 years, only 10 percent had ever heard a prescribed burning case. About half responded that they were unfamiliar with prescribed fire, but many (more than 70 percent) identified some benefits from prescribed burning—primarily for reducing fuel loads and managing land.

Certified burner trainers and professional wildland firefighters were identified as those most trusted to provide expert witness testimony in court. A local consensus on the desirability of burning (i.e., fire culture) can affect how laws are interpreted and applied.

County commissioners who were surveyed in Texas and Oklahoma generally understood that prescribed burning was a safe and useful land management tool that should be used more frequently. This opinion was more common among commissioners who described themselves as familiar with prescribed burning. Familiarity with prescribed burning was reported as experience with prescribed burning, either on their own land or by being invited to participate in a burn on private lands. Active participation in prescribed burning activities allowed commissioners to see first-hand that those conducting the fire were qualified to do so safely. Commissioners also relied on local fire departments and emergency services for information about prescribed burning, therefore the attitudes of those experts were important to commissioner perceptions. Importantly, many commissioners were struggling with woody plant invasions on their own land. They reported most often selecting mechanical and chemical control treatments, but about half stated that they also used prescribed fire.

Burning during burn bans can sometimes occur with special approvals. By participating in burns conducted under burn ban conditions, commissioners and judges can observe the level of risk and the expertise of prescribed burning practitioners, with a possibility of re-evaluating how often they allow exemptions.

What can I Do?

Prescribed burn associations are well qualified to demonstrate the planning and actions taken to reduce the risks of prescribed burning. By inviting local elected and county fire officials to attend PBA meetings or participate in prescribed burns, relationships and knowledge are enhanced. Knowledge obtained first-hand can supplement that provided by expert witnesses.

BEST PRACTICES FOR WORKING WITH STAKEHOLDERS

How and Why:

Reaching out to local elected officials who have an impact on burning, including county commissioners, district court judges, and local fire chiefs/departments, can be crucial for garnering support for prescribed fire and lowering barriers to burning (e.g., fewer burn bans or more exemptions, burner-friendly outcomes for prescribed burning law suits). This can often seem daunting or difficult; therefore a list has been compiled from expert experience of best practices for approaching officials, neighbors, and the general public to engage them and involve them in prescribed burning.

1. Build trust well in advance of a prescribed fire by engaging in meaningful and strategic discussions with officials and residents and addressing their concerns. While one-on-one relationship building can be more time and/or resource intensive, this approach pays dividends later.
2. Develop an “ask” before meeting—what is wanted from this individual? Is it to engage them in a conversation, invite them to participate, make them aware of what is going on, or change a regulation? This will help determine the direction of the conversation. For more information on creating a good a good “ask,” see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RhZZQ2OP90A> (starting at 20:30 in the video).
3. Arrange to meet in person, rather than by phone or writing, for more impactful discussion.
4. Call or email fire officials prior to an in-person meeting to let them know who you are and why you want to talk and gauge their communication preference (e.g., in person, via telephone, or other).
5. Provide examples of nearby county burn restrictions/regulations that are aligned with the prescribed burning stance being advocated. It is reassuring to know that similar regulations are already being used elsewhere and are locally acceptable.
6. Have talking points and materials on hand (see the “Talking Points” document).
7. Get people into the field! Creating opportunities for residents, media, elected officials, and other community members to witness or assist with prescribed burning, or view the positive changes after a burn, provides an exciting and effective opportunity to communicate its benefits. It also generates participant enthusiasm for the process.
8. Follow up and send thank you notes to show appreciation for their time.
9. Keep the messages going. Integrating prescribed fire messaging into ongoing, year-round activities—such as other wildland fire outreach events or community meetings—promotes a higher level of community awareness and a greater degree of acceptance.
10. Re-engage after each election cycle to build relationships with new local officials. Consider visiting with candidates before the election to raise awareness of prescribed burning and solicit their views.
11. Manage expectations. Developing trust and relationships are ongoing processes that take time. Changes in prescribed burning attitudes and policy are likely to be incremental. Do not be surprised or discouraged by resistance on first contact with stakeholders. Continue communicating gently and persistently to increase the chances of a favorable response.

Notification to Neighbors:

Notifying neighbors of plans to burn can help tremendously in building support for prescribed burning in the local area. Neighbors are more likely to react negatively to fire if they are taken by surprise, and a conversation with them can build rapport and trust, and offer an opportunity for educating them about the practice. The video, *Why Burn?* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UvRbwK7YQbg>), produced by the *Great Plains Fire Science Exchange*, is a good introduction for neighbors unfamiliar with prescribed burning to acquaint them with the practice and the importance of prescribed fire as a management tool.

The Stakeholder section of this Communication Kit has information on how to identify owners of neighboring properties and a sample letter template that can be revised to suit specific needs is also included in the Notification section.

Strategies for Effective Verbal Communication:

- ▶ Focus on the issue, not the person. Try not to take everything personally, and similarly, express personal needs and opinions in terms of prescribed burning.
 - ▶ Be genuine, honest, and open, never manipulative. Focus on working well with the people that are around and act with integrity.
 - ▶ Empathize rather than remain detached. Although professional relationships entail some boundaries when it comes to interaction with officials, it is important to demonstrate sensitivity and care about the concerns of the person you are speaking with. If you do not care about them, it will be difficult for them to care about you and your needs.
 - ▶ Be flexible toward others. Allow for other points of view and be open to other ways of doing things. Diversity brings creativity and innovation.
 - ▶ Value yourself and your own experiences. Be firm about your own rights and needs. Undervaluing yourself encourages others to undervalue you, too. Offer your ideas and expect to be treated well.
- ▶ Use affirming responses. Respond to others in ways that acknowledge their experiences. Thank them for their input. Affirm their right to their feelings, even if you disagree. Ask questions, express positive feelings and provide positive feedback when possible.
 - ▶ Keep encounters non-confrontational and avoid an arrogant, know-it-all attitude. Be prepared to spend most of the time shared together listening.
 - ▶ Take time to understand the person and make the message pertinent and relatable. Someone with a non-agricultural background may be more interested in wildflowers than livestock gains.

Below are a few resources for effective communication that are applicable to instances of talking with officials and neighbors alike.

- ▶ Put Fire to Work Prescribed Fire Outreach Toolkit: <https://www.putfiretowork.org/audience-messaging>
- ▶ Fire Communication Kit: <https://gpfirescience.org/resources/great-plains-fire-communication-kit/>

FINDING AGENCIES AND GOVERNMENT ENTITIES IN TEXAS	
Entity	Where to find Contact Information
County Commissioners, Town Hall	Select county (how to find commissioners varies by website): https://www.county.org/About-Texas-Counties/Texas-County-Websites
Volunteer Fire Departments	https://www.firedepartment.net/directory/texas
District Court Judges	https://www.txcourts.gov/media/1443296/district_judges-082121.pdf To find out which district you are in: https://www.txcourts.gov/media/1442225/district-court-map-sept-2018.pdf
County Fire Marshall/Chief	https://members.sffma.org/directory
Press	Texas Newspaper Directory – \$45: https://www.texaspress.com/tpa-online-store Online newspapers: https://www.w3newspapers.com/usa/texas/ Texas Media Directory: https://www.einpresswire.com/world-media-directory/4/texas
State Legislators	House members: https://capitol.texas.gov/Members/Members.aspx?Chamber=H Senate members: https://capitol.texas.gov/Members/Members.aspx?Chamber=S Find my district: https://redistricting.capitol.texas.gov/Current-districts https://wrm.capitol.texas.gov/home
Neighbors	Local county clerk website plat maps. Local appraisal district website property search: https://landgrid.com/

STAKEHOLDER IDENTIFICATION AND CONTACTS

Working with local agencies and government entities can promote a more positive attitude toward prescribed burning. Besides the groups listed above, think of others in the area that would benefit from the information that can be provided from this Communications Kit about the safety and need for prescribed burning. Are there landowners other than private ranchers, such as wildlife refuges, conservation areas, or state lands? Are there hunters, recreationists, organizations, outdoor enterprises, or other special interest groups that would be interested in how prescribed burning might affect them? Are there sensitive populations (e.g., nursing homes, schools) who need to know about efforts to avoid causing smoke problems?

Approaching people and groups who have unknown, ambivalent, or negative attitudes toward prescribed burning can be uncomfortable—but not talking to them may lead to larger problems. People generally appreciate that an effort was made to include them in the discussion rather than ignoring them.

Some Volunteer Fire Departments (VFDs) monitor prescribed burns as a paid service to provide income for their department. When PBAs request this service, they are not only supporting an important local community amenity, but they are also building fire department cooperation and support for the PBA.

TALKING POINTS FOR DISCUSSING PRESCRIBED BURNING WITH STAKEHOLDERS

Why Burn?

Prescribed fire is a safe way to apply a natural process that enhances the benefits provided by native rangelands and reduces the wildfire risk to people and homes. It is also one of the most versatile and cost-effective management practices available for good land stewardship. Prescribed burning is a historic, proven method of land management that has been used for thousands of years to benefit both humans and nature.

What happens when Prescribed Burning does not Occur?

Fire is an important tool in the battle to protect and conserve rangelands, which are decreasing in expanse. Undesirable woody plants pose a threat to rangeland plants and wildlife by altering their habitat away from the open prairie they need.¹ Ranchers face reduced income when woody plants expand their extent and

replace nutritious grasses. Within the Great Plains region alone, woody plants have reduced available forage by about 40 billion pounds in the last 40 years at a cost of about \$5 billion.²

Prescribed fire is essential for reducing wildfire risk.⁷ Cedars and junipers, the undesirable woody plants expanding most rapidly, are a volatile fuel that decreases firefighters' ability to bring wildfires under control.

Prescribed Burn Associations are crucial assets during wildfire season. PBA's are familiar with fire suppression equipment, local terrain, fire behavior, prevailing winds, and the surrounding VFD crew members and equipment. When wildfire suppression resources are spread thin, PBAs can serve as a knowledgeable extra resource capable of safely working within the parameters of unified command during an active wildfire.⁴ In fact, the Texas Department of Agriculture encourages and accepts Continuing Fire Training credits from Certified and Insured Prescribed Burn Managers who serve in wildfire suppression efforts.

Prescribed burning is regulated by the State of Texas. Because the Texas Department of Agriculture views prescribed burning as highly beneficial, it provides guidance and forms for counties to allow for burning during burn bans.^{5,6} A link to the forms is provided below.

What are the Benefits of Prescribed Burning?

- ▶ Ranching operations are likely to be more profitable.
- ▶ Improves forage quantity and quality (i.e., crude protein, palatability, total digestible nutrients).
- ▶ Reduces tick and horn flies.
- ▶ Improves animal performance:
 - Stocker cattle weigh gains
 - Cow body condition
 - Calf weaning weights
- ▶ Improves grazing distribution.
- ▶ Improves ease of handling livestock.
- ▶ Potential for increasing the stocking rate through woody plant removal.
- ▶ Reduces reliance on more expensive mechanical and chemical control methods.

Nature is Benefited:

- ▶ Improves wildlife diets and habitats.
- ▶ Reduces wildlife parasites.

- ▶ Increases biodiversity when coupled with grazing.
- ▶ Increases wildflower (i.e., forbs) number and types.
- ▶ Results in healthier native rangeland plants.
- ▶ Provides some invasive weed control.
- ▶ Curtails undesirable woody plant expansion at all life stages.
- ▶ Results in less damage to desirable native plants than chemical control methods.

Public and Firefighter Safety is Increased:

- ▶ Reduces the fuels most likely to create highly dangerous wildfire conditions.
- ▶ Creates firebreaks around sensitive areas.
- ▶ Additional community members with fire experience are available to assist fire departments during wildfire events.

Are there good Substitutes for Prescribed Burning?

Prescribed burning is the only woody plant control method that is:

- ▶ Effective at all stages of undesirable woody plant growth.
- ▶ Preventive rather than reactive.
- ▶ Cost-effective for large expanses of grassland.
- ▶ Used frequently and repeatedly without damaging desirable plants and animals.
- ▶ Highly beneficial for more than just woody plant control.

How Risky is Prescribed Burning?

A 2012 survey³ of 50 PBAs located in the Great Plains concluded the risk is minimal, with no fatalities and one minor burn injury during 1,094 prescribed burns across 8 years. Spotfires (small escapes that occur outside the desired perimeter of the fire that are quickly extinguished by personnel and equipment on the fire) occurred in about 20 percent of the burns. Escaped burns that required additional firefighters and equipment occurred 16 times (1.5 percent of the burns). Careful preparation of firebreaks ahead of prescribed burning and the reduced fuel loads after a prescribed burn can be helpful in wildfire control and reduce risk to firefighters.

PRESCRIBED BURN NOTIFICATION

Proactive communications allows for burn plans to be shared with stakeholders to alleviate concerns and build trust. There is no single right way to notify neighbors and community members. Use the methods that best fit those burning and the community's needs. From casual conversations to formal letters, the goal is to show respect for those in and around the community, reduce unwarranted calls to local fire departments, and minimize unnecessary confusion.

Local officials, state agency staff, and volunteer fire departments might all appreciate knowing about plans to burn in advance. File a copy of all notifications sent so there is a record of communication efforts.

The notifications discussed in this section are in addition to legally required notifications—not a substitute.

- 1. Letter** – An example letter can be found below. Certified delivery can be used if confirmation of delivery is important.
- 2. Email** – Letters can be sent by email rather than paper delivery. “Read receipt” option can be used if confirmation of the email being opened is important.
- 3. Text message** – Prompting for a reply in the text may result in confirmation that the text was read.
 - Example: “Heads up, we’re planning to burn tomorrow at [insert location here]. Please reply ‘OK’ if you receive this text.”
- 4. Social media post** – Keep the post simple, to the point, and easily understandable by those with limited knowledge of prescribed burning (including a photo will attract attention to the post and may reduce scrolling past without reading).
 - Example: “Friends and neighbors, if you see smoke tomorrow near [insert location here, such as ‘my East pasture’], don’t worry—we’re conducting a prescribed burn. This burn will help us [insert objectives here, such as ‘manage brush and weeds and improve forage for grazing’].”

LETTER EXAMPLE

Neighbor,

The conservation management plan for our ranch includes periodic prescribed burning to benefit livestock, wildflowers, and wildlife while reducing wildfire risk. Fire is a natural ecological process that has shaped prairies and woodlands over many centuries. Native plants and animals are adapted to and depend upon periodic fires to survive and thrive.

We are planning a burn [this spring](#) and want you to know in advance about our plans and answer any questions you might have. We will burn within the next few weeks if conditions are suitable. The exact date of the burn will be determined by when we are ready and when weather conditions are right for a successful, safe burn. The burn is planned to minimize smoke impacts on our neighbors and on roads. [\[Modify with your time period.\]](#)

We will burn with the assistance of the [XXX Burn Association](#) to have adequately trained crew and equipment on hand to minimize any chance of the fire escaping. [\[Modify with your burn association.\]](#)

As part of the planning process, we have delineated the area we plan to burn on a map [\(attached\)](#). Firebreaks will be installed where necessary to stop the fire at the edge of the property. [\[Attach map.\]](#)

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns. If you would like to observe or participate in the burn, please let us know in advance.

If you have questions or concerns or would like to observe or participate, please let us know as soon as possible.

We appreciate your support!

[\[Insert signature\]](#)

P.S. – If you are curious, the video *Why Burn?* goes into more detail about why ranchers use prescribed burning. Click on link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UvRbwK7YQbg>.

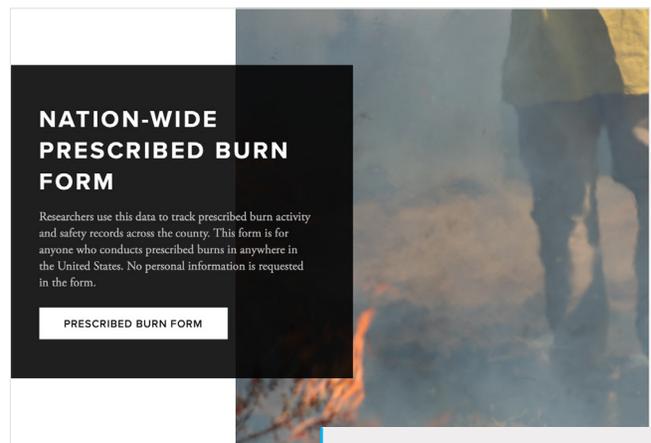
5. Social network post – NextDoor or similar apps can be used for notification where they are in common use. The post should be timely and relative to the prescribed fire ignitions. A good rule of thumb is to post about 1 hour prior to first ignition and then again when ignitions are complete.

- Example 1: “We will be starting our prescribed burn in the next hour or so near [insert location here, such as ‘my East pasture’].”
- Example 2: “We have completed igniting our prescribed burn and will continue to actively patrol the area until the fire is extinguished.”

6. Door hangers and windshield flyers – Print these on brightly colored paper so they are eye-catching and readily distinguishable from ordinary commercial materials. Use examples from other media types given in this section to craft a message.

REPORTING PRESCRIBED BURNS

Help Promote Prescribed Burning: Report burn results anonymously.



Source: <https://www.ok-pba.org>

Researchers need your help to get the Facts on Prescribed Fire-use and Safety.

Insurance companies, elected officials, fire departments, and neighbors need accurate data when assessing the risk of prescribed burning. Reporting your burn helps build a burn activity and outcomes database that accurately reflects the risk. Information added to the database is also useful in identifying and communicating research needs. Prescribed burn associations can share the data with potential donors to show the extent of safe burning.

What Information is Collected?

- ▶ The number and acres of burns around the country, especially for PBAs.
- ▶ The safety record of burns, including insurance claims, spotfires and escapes.
- ▶ County and state where burn occurred.

The quality of the data depends on reporting of fires and results by landowners, certified burn managers and burn associations—this means you! Data inputs are completely anonymous. No personal information is asked and no emails are saved. County and state information collected allows summary reports by area.

How is this Data Used?

Publications that resulted from use of this database include:

- ▶ **Prescribed Fire: Understanding Liability, Laws and Risk** (<https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/prescribed-fire-understanding-liability-laws-and-risk.html>)
- ▶ **Prescribed Burning: Spotfires and Escapes** (<https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/prescribed-burning-spotfires-and-escapes.html>)

How do I Report?

It is easy! Use the online form or get the smartphone app at: <https://www.ok-pba.org>.

(Scroll down to the bottom of the page, where you will also see a recent fire data summary.)

Help us get the facts! Please report your prescribed burns and encourage your neighbors and burn association to report. Include it as part of your post-burn checklist.

For more information about the database, please contact:

John R. Weir, Associate Extension Specialist
Natural Resource Ecology and Management
Oklahoma State University
008C Ag Hall
Stillwater, OK 74078
Office (405) 744-5442 | Mobile (405) 780-0036
<http://nrem.okstate.edu/faculty/Weir.html>

 @OSURXFIRE  #pyric_mafia

SELECTED PRESCRIBED BURN REFERENCES AND RESOURCES

Reasons for Burning

- ▶ *Why Burn?* video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UvRbwK7YQbg>
- ▶ *Can Fire be Replaced in Rangelands to Manage Eastern Redcedar?* video: <https://gpfirescience.org/resources/presentation/>
- ▶ *The Little Town that was saved from a Wildfire* video: <https://www.ulpba.org/learn-the-facts>

Communication

- ▶ Great Plains Fire Communication Kit: <https://gpfirescience.org/resources/great-plains-fire-communication-kit/>
- ▶ Put Fire to Work: <https://www.putfiretowork.org/home>

Prescribed Burn Associations

- ▶ Start a Prescribed Burn Association: <https://www.ok-pba.org>
- ▶ Prescribed burn: <https://gpfirescience.org/agencies/>
- ▶ Prescribed Burn Associations: Neighbors Helping Neighbors Getting Fire Back on the Ground video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FxwFKelrqpQ&t=48s>
- ▶ Prescribed Burn Associations fact sheet: <https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/prescribed-burn-associations.html>
- ▶ Value of Forming a Prescribed Burn Association fact sheet: <https://southernfireexchange.org/wp-content/uploads/2016-2.pdf>

Prescribed Burn Reporting

- ▶ Tutorial: <https://youtu.be/tsfwYbhHbQw>
- ▶ Web: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf01u-KILgLxKt5fhX2wvzogQDYI44OQ5Cb0wnszPG-zHQ7qw/viewform>
- ▶ Android: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=edu.okstate.dasnr.rxburnentryform>
- ▶ iOS: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/id1526893403>

Online Training Courses

- ▶ Introduction to Prescribed Fire: <https://osuextension.catalog.instructure.com/courses/introduction-to-prescribed-fire>

Texas Resources

- ▶ Prescribed Burn School online course: agrilifelearn.tamu.edu
- ▶ Burnet-Lampasas Country Prescribed Burn Association: eppbaburnlamp@gmail.com
- ▶ Texas Prescribed Burn Alliance: <http://pbatexas.org/Associations.aspx>
- ▶ Texas Department of Agriculture Prescribed Burn Program: <https://www.texasagriculture.gov/home/productionagriculture/prescribedburnprogram.aspx>
- ▶ Certified Burn Management Program: <https://www.texasagriculture.gov/Home/ProductionAgriculture/PrescribedBurnProgram/FindaBurnManager.aspx>
- ▶ Information and Resources for Counties During Burn Bans: <https://www.texasagriculture.gov/Home/ProductionAgriculture/PrescribedBurnProgram/BurningDuringaBurnBan.aspx>
- ▶ Prescribed Burn Management during County Burn Bans (guidance and forms): <https://www.texasagriculture.gov/Portals/0/forms/PEST/Burn/Prescribed%20Burning%20Packet%20for%20Counties.pdf>
- ▶ Texas Land Conservation Assistance Network: <https://www.texaslandcan.org/Rolling-Plains/Prescribed-Fire/>
- ▶ Texas A&M Forest Service:
 - Prescribed Burning: <https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/PrescribedBurns/>
 - Contractor List (select vendor, your region, prescribed burning): <https://texasforestinfo.tamu.edu/MyLandManagementConnector/FindSP>
 - Prescribed Burn Toolbox: <https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/PrescribedBurnToolbox/>

- ▶ Some VFDs participate in prescribed burning (contact them for more information): <https://www.firedepartment.net/directory/texas>

Oklahoma Resources

- ▶ Oklahoma Prescribed Burn Association: www.ok-pba.org, or Facebook: @oklahomaprescribedburnassociation
- ▶ Oklahoma State University Extension: <https://extension.okstate.edu>
- ▶ Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry: <https://ag.ok.gov>
 - Fire Information: <https://ag.ok.gov/wildfire-information/>
 - Burn Bans: <https://forestry.ok.gov/burn-ban-info>
 - Burning within the Law: https://forestry.ok.gov/sites/g/files/gmc801/f/burn_within_the_law_5.26.21_3.pdf
 - Oklahoma Mesonet: www.mesonet.org
 - Fire Prescription Planner: http://www.mesonet.org/index.php/okfire/fire_rx
- ▶ Noble Research Institute: www.noble.org

REFERENCES

- ¹USDA NRCS Working Lands for Wildlife. 2021-2025 Framework for Conservation Action: Great Plains Grassland Biome. <https://wlfw.rangelands.app/great-plains/>.
- ²Morford, S.L., Allred, B.W., Twidwell, D., Jones, M.O., Maestas, J.D., & Naugle, D.E. 2021. Biome-scale woody encroachment threatens conservation potential and sustainability of U.S. rangelands. Pre-print. bioRxiv 2021.04.02.438282; doi: <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.04.02.438282v1>.
- ³Weir, J.R., Twidwell, D., & Wonkka, C.L. (2015). Prescribed burn association activity, needs, and safety record: a survey of the Great Plains. Great Plains Fire Science Exchange. GPE Publication, 6, 19.
- ⁴Jetton, S. The little town that was saved from a wildfire. Upper Llanos Prescribed Burn Association. Downloaded May 17, 2021. <https://www.ulpba.org/learn-the-facts>.
- ⁵Texas Department of Agriculture. Information and Resources for Counties During Burn Bans. Downloaded May 17, 2021. <https://www.texasagriculture.gov/Home/ProductionAgriculture/PrescribedBurnProgram/BurningDuringaBurnBan.aspx>.

⁶Texas Department of Agriculture. Protecting our resources: Prescribed burn management during county burn bans. Downloaded May 17, 2021. <https://www.texasagriculture.gov/Portals/0/forms/PEST/Burn/Prescribed%20Burning%20Packet%20for%20Counties.pdf>.

⁷Waldrop, T., & Goodrick, S. 2012. (Slightly revised 2018). Introduction to prescribed fires in Southern ecosystems. Science Update SRS-054. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 80p.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are deeply grateful to the prescribed burn association members and others who reviewed this manuscript and provided many important suggestions for improvement that were incorporated into the final version. Their willingness to candidly share what needed re-wording, augmentation, or removal made the kit more easily understandable and focused.

