

Must Do's Before the Burn

The following practices are necessary to set up a safe prescribed burn.

Included is information on burn unit boundaries such as:

- placement and construction standards
- preparing internal features for a burn
- logistical information

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Burn Unit

Design Specifications



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Boundary Line Construction Standards

Hayed line boundaries must be 50' in width minimum and all bales must be completely removed from the area. **Bale every line to remove the hay.**

If grass is greater than 5' in height, than the width must be 10 times the grass height minimum. For example: **6' grass = 60' wide.**

Disked lines should be disked twice and bladed/roller-packed to smooth out the clods. A disked line should be bare dirt, mineral soil to provide a clean firebreak. **Disked lines are superior to baled lines and should be used wherever major erosion is not a concern.**

A burn cannot have multiple volatile trees such as cedars on the edge. More than a couple per quarter mile is too many. Cut any bunches of trees present and pile them at least 300 feet from the perimeter.

Cutoff/Contingency Line

A disked/hayed line must be placed through the middle of the unit to provide a fuel break, just in case the burn must be cut short. The line should run completely through the short side of the unit.

For Example: If the burn runs long East to West, the cutoff line would run North to South. It must adhere to the same standards of listed above with minimum 50' wide-baled or disked.

Other Recommendations:

- **Corners** Cut all corners caddy-corner style and hay the outside. Do not use 90° or perpendicular corners. These contribute to fire whirls and excessive heat.
- **Exterior Fences** Let down all exterior fences at corners if there is no gate. Otherwise plan to be on the outside of the fence through the burn. Disconnect electric fences from power sources.
- **Interior Fences** Mow on both sides to reduce heat and aid in travel during the burn.
- **Interior Structures and Improvements** Place a hayed line or disked line around these to facilitate wetting and burning around during the burn.
- **Wooden Power Poles** Mow around these with weed whackers and hoe out the grass to create bare dirt for several feet around.
- **Water Refill:** Turn on all stock tanks around the unit to fill with clean water, if no stock tanks present, provide a water truck with at least 1,000 gallons and a person to keep it full.

EXAMPLE: 120-ACRE BURN (not to scale)

1,000 Gallon Co-op Water Trailer

