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

Burn Unit must be completely surrounded by any of these three types of boundaries:
Natural =
- Lakes
- Large River Channel
- Improved Roads

Constructed =
- Disked or Hayed Lines
- Through the Grass

Grazed =
- Heavily Grazed Areas
- Previously Burnt Areas
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.