

# CONDUCT A BURN: before, during, after

## GETTING READY

### What is a controlled burn?

A low intensity fire, that is planned and carried out safely, legally, and responsibly.

### What do I need to do to plan a burn?

**Make a simple plan:** Why do you want to burn? Where do you want to burn? What kind of fire do you want (< 1 feet flames, slow)? How do you need to burn to get what you want? What permits are needed?

Get help and advice from someone who knows. If you are new to burning. Learn: go watch and help at someone else's burn; take a class or workshop.

## STEPS TO CONDUCT A BURN

### BEFORE

1. Organize and set-up: water, people, tools, additional supplies (food & water)
2. Track Conditions: watch weather, check burn day status.
3. Ensure all control lines are established and clear (day of burn)

### DURING

1. Briefing: identify roles and responsibilities, make hazards, safety zones and access routes known to attendees, identify lead medical person and location of medical equipment, cover overall logistics.
2. Go-No-Go Checklist: Confirm all items are checked "Yes" (day of burn)
3. Test burn: Representative of all fuels present, located at the highest corner and in line with the wind.
4. Firing Patterns: strip backing fire, keep all ignitors even with each other on each side, continuously monitor weather during firing, adjust if necessary.
5. Control: Keep head on a swivel (watch fire and outside area adjacent to burn unit), watch for key lookouts (up trees, embers outside unit, smoldering base of trees, values nearby)

### AFTER

1. Mop-Up: the use of hand tools and water to extinguish "hot spots" and residual flames where needed, such as along the control lines, to reduce the likelihood that the prescribed fire will escape.
2. How do you do it: Seek and destroy – find all areas still emitting smoke and use hand tools and water to cool it down. Scrape burning bark off logs with tools and spray with water. Use the back of hand to feel ground for remaining heat. Immediately after burning handle 20-30 ft in from perimeter around unit. After the perimeter is handled then you can move farther interior. Take any still smoldering material and pile it to allow it to fully consume.
3. Smoke management: continue to patrol/monitor area after burn and put out smokes.

	What	Why	Considerations
<b>Before the Burn</b>			
<b>Organize</b>	<i>Water (hoses, portable tanks, backpack pumps)</i>	To control the fire and put it out	Has water been turned on a set nearby
	<i>People</i>	To help conduct the burn AND put it out after	Are there enough people for control?
	<i>Tools/Supplies</i>	To help move the fire, put it out and have access to medical equipment if needed	Does each attendee have a hand tool? Is there a first aid kit if needed?
<b>Watch/Monitor Weather conditions</b>	<i>Weather</i>	To ensure burning is happening according to burn plan	Are the weather parameters still within prescription of the burn plan?
	<i>Burn Day Status</i>	To ensure the burn is still allowed to happen according to NSAQMD	Has NSAQMD been notified of the burn? Is it a burn day?
<b>Make sure the site is ready</b>	<i>Control Lines</i>	To make sure the fire is fully contained and has a low chance of escape	Has any vegetation accumulated on the control lines before the burn?
<b>During the Burn</b>			
<b>Briefing</b>	<i>Safety/Hazards</i>	To make sure all participants are aware of danger and where to go if something goes wrong	Are all access routes/safety zones identified? Are hazards within the unit identified?
	<i>Roles/Responsibilities</i>	So participants know what their role is on the burn and what responsibilities come with it	Do all attendees know their role/responsibilities? Do they know who to report to?
	<i>Logistics/Medical</i>	So participants know where key items are and when certain things will be happening	Do all attendees know where the bathroom is? Do all attendees know where medical equipment is?
<b>Go-No-Go Checklist</b>	<i>Go-No-Go Checklist</i>	Ensure all minimum criteria for a safe burn is accounted for	Have all criteria been checked "yes"? If not, what is still needed?
<b>Test Burn</b>	<i>Choose Location</i>	So the test is representative of all fuels	Is the test fire representative of all fuels? Is it at the highest corner?
	<i>Controls</i>	So the test burn does not escape	Has a containment line been put around the test fire? Is water nearby?
<b>Firing Patterns</b>	<i>Strip, backing fire</i>	Safest way to burn	Are ignitors staying even? Do they have adequate spacing?
	<i>Monitor Weather behavior</i>	Ensure still in prescription while igniting	Are the weather parameters still within the burn plan prescription?
<b>Control</b>	<i>Swivel Head/Key Lookouts</i>	Ensure nothing is on fire that could potentially be dangerous and cause escapes	What key lookout items are present within the unit that need to be monitored?
<b>After The Burn</b>			
<b>Mop-Up</b>	<i>Smoke Management</i>	To keep air quality healthy and neighbors happy	Are there still smoking fuels within the unit? Are there still heavy logs smoldering/smoking?