



## Prescribed Burn Task Force and the Great Plains Fire Learning Network Presents: A Pasture Prescribed-Burn Training and Experience Event

In mid-March, private landowners from Nebraska will host firefighters from federal, state and conservation organizations. These out-of-state fire practitioners will help implement approximately **9,000 acres of controlled burning** along the Platte and Loup rivers for the purpose of firefighter training. Local practitioners will demonstrate the advantages of landowner associations and how cooperation of neighboring land owners to combine pastures into single burns is effective. Controlled burns are conducted every year in Nebraska to help control the spread of Eastern Red Cedar as well as maintain grassland health.

Because National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) plans have been developed for several large pastures on private land, firefighters from organizations adhering to NWCG standards will have the opportunity to participate.

**All interested landowners are invited to participate.** There will be several levels of participation available. To fully participate in all tactical actions, including lighting and holding, landowners will need to have taken the self-study courses **Basic Firefighter** and **Introduction to Fire Behavior**. Landowners who do not complete this self-study course are equally encouraged and welcome to participate. They will be included in pre-burn briefings and post-burn discussions. During burn operations these participants will be located in a safe area where fire-line operations can be observed. Radios will be provided to observing landowners.

**Basic Firefighter** and **Introduction to Fire Behavior** will be provided free of charge to those who are interested. **Landowners completing the self-study and field day will be given tactical assignments during the controlled burns.** This home study opportunity will take approximately 30 hours to complete. Also required is an 8 hour field day where participants will become familiar with the prescribed burn unit, equipment to be used, and standards and expectations for the following day's burning.

One field day plus several days of prescribed burning will be conducted near Broken Bow. A second field day plus several days of prescribed burning will be conducted near Gothenburg. At each location it is anticipated that at least three days of prescribed burning will follow the field day.

To participate in the **Basic Firefighter** and **Introduction to Fire Behavior** self-study courses contact **David Carr at 308 385 6282**. Participants will be sent a student letter with information about the course. NWCG certificates of completion will be provided to landowners who complete the online and field day portions of the training.

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**Who:** All landowners interested in learning and sharing about prescribed fire

**What:** Basic Firefighter training and Prescribed Fire implementation

**When:** Self-study starts anytime, prescribed burns and field days will occur in mid-March

**Where:** Gothenburg and Broken Bow

**Why:** Demonstrate, discuss and share safe and effective prescribed-burn tactics and principles

**Physical Fitness and Protective Clothing Requirements:** Participants will need to demonstrate the ability to function effectively on the actual pre-burn scouting as well as operate equipment proficiently without compromising other firefighters' safety. Landowners will demonstrate this ability by maintaining situational awareness and effective firefighting capabilities while carrying required equipment, walking along typical terrain, and implementing regular functions of a Firefighter Type Two. All personal protective equipment such as hard hat, fire resistant clothing and fire shelter will be provided. Participants will need to provide their own work boots.