









SAFE WORK PRACTICE BURNING VEGETATION PILES

PURPOSE

To ensure the health and safety of all employees while involved in the creation of vegetation slash piles and burning of vegetation piles. Note this should be used in conjunction with but **does not include** the use of drip torches/ignition devices as there is already a SWP for this.

This SWP also specifies all required training, standards, and personal protective equipment.

POTENTIAL HAZARDS

-  Burns from exposure to hot surfaces, flames, sparks, liquids, gasses or chemicals
-  Fire and/or explosions
-  Smoke inhalation
-  Exposure to debris from smoke and embers
-  Inhalation, ingestion, absorption or injection of hazardous substance
-  Slips, trips, and falls






MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

Qualification and Training

- Min. 1 person on site with First Aid and CPR
- Workplace Hazardous Material Inventory System (WHMIS)

Approved Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

When choosing PPE, keep in mind both the task and the environment in which the work is conducted.

	Protective clothing (Nomex shirt/pant or coveralls)- For staff maintaining/lighting the fire		Protective hand wear (Leather, or non-synthetic)		Protective footwear (purpose-designed approved boots)
	Protective headwear		Protective eyewear		

Other Required Equipment

- Fire extinguisher and/or portable water tank
- First aid kit with burn dressings
- Eye wash kit
- Communication equipment (two-way radios, cell phone, etc.)
- Fire grade rake, shovel and/or pulaski
- Spill kit & spill mat

✓ **DO**

Environmental Considerations;

- Debris pile burning operations will only occur when the local fire hazard is low. Any burning outside of this threshold will be subject to approval by the the Fire/Safety Coordinator.
- Consider nearby fuel sources and weather conditions that can transport embers to untargeted areas. Pay particular attention to burn piles near residential areas.
- Consider other work actions in the area and how they may be impacted.
- Wind thresholds will vary depending on fuel moisture, so discuss with your Fire/Safety Coordinator.
- All staff on site should be aware of the burn operation.
- Note wind direction to limit smoke exposure to workers, the public and visibility impacts near roads.
- Create a trip-free zone 7 feet around burn pile.

Site Safety;

- Ensure that the size of the burn pile and associated embers is manageable with the extinguishment resources on hand. Consult as needed.
- Mechanical equipment feeding the pile should be inspected for fuel/oil leaks and the operator briefed on safety protocols.
- Have available appropriate communications, first-aid kit, eye wash and burn dressings onsite.
- Carry a spare pair of work gloves to wear after handling torch parts coated in fuel mix.
- Keep a fire extinguisher/water tank and spill kit readily available on site.
- Only use as much fuel as necessary to ignite a pile.
- Always light on the upwind side of the pile.
- Always fill drip torch in well-ventilated area.
- Store fuel and drip torches on a spill mat, away from heat sources.
- Transport and store fuel in accordance to Transportation of Dangerous Goods and WHMIS manufacturer's recommendations.

✗ **DO NOT**

- Leave burn piles unattended unless approved by the Fire/Safety Coordinator.
- Locate burn piles under power lines or along escape routes.
- Allow fuel to contact clothing or PPE.
- Leave fuel cans and/or ignition devices near burn pile.
- Under any circumstances deliver fuel onto a pile from anything but an approved ignition device (ex.drip torch) This includes jerry cans, drums or any other non-approved device.
- Add liquid fuel to an already burning pile.
- Burn over areas contaminated with poison ivy, poison oak, giant hogweed or cow's parsnip.
- Point the drip torch in the direction of other staff or yourself.

Related Safe Work Practices and other documents that may apply to this task

Working in Wildfire Environment
Manual Material Handling

Using a Ground Ignition Device
Managing and Handling of Hazardous Plants

Field Unit Superintendent/
Director (or Equivalent)

K. JAMES
Name

[Signature]
Signature

Feb-11/20
Date