

R307-204

R307. Environmental Quality, Air Quality.

R307-204. Emission Standards: Smoke Management.

R307-204-1. Purpose and Goals.

(1) The purpose of R307-204 is to establish by rule procedures that mitigate the impact on public health and visibility of prescribed fire and wildland fire.

R307-204-2. Applicability.

(1) R307-204 applies to all persons using prescribed fire or wildland fire on land they own or manage.

(2) R307-204 does not apply to agricultural activities specified in 19-2-114 and to those regulated under R307-202, or to activities otherwise permitted under R307.

R307-204-3. Definitions.

The following additional definitions apply only to R307-204.

"Annual Emissions Goal" means the annual establishment of a planned quantitative value of emissions reductions from prescribed fire.

"Best Management Practices" means smoke management and dispersion techniques used during a prescribed fire or a wildland fire use event that affect the direction, duration, height or density of smoke.

"Burn Plan" means the plan required for each fire ignited by managers or allowed to burn.

"Burn Window" means the period of time during which the prescribed fire is scheduled for ignition.

"Emission Reduction Techniques (ERT)" mean techniques for controlling emissions from prescribed fires to minimize the amount of emission output per unit or acre burned.

"Federal Class I Area" means any Federal land that is federally classified or reclassified Class I.

"Fire Prescription" means the measurable criteria that define conditions under which a prescribed fire may be ignited, guide selection of appropriate management responses, and indicates other required actions. Prescription criteria may include but are not limited to safety, economic, public health, environmental, geographic, administrative, social, or legal considerations.

"Land Manager" means any federal, state, local or private entity that owns, administers, directs, oversees or controls the use of public or private land, including the application of fire to the land.

"Non-burning Alternatives to Fire" means non-burning techniques that are used to achieve a particular land management objective, including but not limited to reduction of fuel loading, manipulation of fuels, enhancement of wildlife habitat, and ecosystem restructuring. These alternatives are designed to replace the use of fire for at least the next five years.

"Particulate Matter" means the liquid or solid particles such as dust, smoke, mist, or smog found in air emissions.

"Pile" means natural materials or debris resulting from some type of fuels management practice that have been

relocated either by hand or machinery into a concentrated area.

"Pile Burning" means burning of individual piles. "Prescribed Fire or Prescribed Burn" means any fire ignited by management actions to meet specific objectives, such as achieving resource benefits.

"Smoke Sensitive Receptors" means population centers such as towns and villages, campgrounds and trails, hospitals, nursing homes, schools, roads, airports, Class I areas, nonattainment and maintenance areas, areas whose air quality monitoring data indicate pollutant levels that are close to health standards, and any other areas where smoke and air pollutants can adversely affect public health, safety and welfare.

"Wildland" means an area in which development is essentially non-existent, except for pipelines, power lines, roads, railroads, or other transportation or conveyance facilities. Structures, if any, are widely scattered.

"Wildland Fire" means any non-structure fire, other than prescribed fire, that occurs in the wildland.

"Wildland Fire Use Event" means naturally ignited wildland fire that is managed to accomplish specific pre-stated resource management objectives in predefined geographic areas.

"Wildland Fire Implementation Plan" means the plan required for each fire that is allowed to burn.

"Wildland Fire Implementation Plan Stage I" means the initial wildland fire planning document. It is developed for fires with a low potential of spread and negative impacts.

"Wildland Fire Implementation Plan Stage II" means a more detailed wildland fire planning document. It is developed for larger more active fires with a greater potential for geographic extent.

R307-204-4. General Requirements.

(1) Management of On-Going Fires. If, after consultation with the land manager, the executive secretary determines that a prescribed fire, wildland fire use event, wildland fire, or any smoke transported from other locations, is degrading air quality to levels that could violate the National Ambient Air Quality Standards or burn plan conditions, the land manager shall promptly stop igniting additional prescribed fires.

(2) Emissions Calculations. In calculating emissions information required under R307-204, each land manager shall use emission factors approved by the executive secretary.

(3) Non-burning Alternatives to Fire. Beginning in 2004 and annually thereafter, each land manager shall submit to the executive secretary by March 15 a list of areas treated using non-burning alternatives to fire during the previous calendar year, including the number of acres, the specific types of alternatives used, and the location of these areas.

(4) Annual Emissions Goal. The executive secretary shall provide an opportunity for an annual meeting with land managers for the purpose of evaluation and adoption of the annual emission goal. The annual emission goal shall be developed in cooperation with states, federal land management agencies and private entities, to control prescribed fire emissions increases to the maximum feasible extent.

(5) Long-term Fire Projections. Each land manager shall provide to the executive secretary by March 15 annually long-term projections of future prescribed fire activity for annual assessment of visibility impairment.

**R307-204-5. Burn Schedule.**

(1) Any land manager planning prescribed fire burning more than 50 acres per year shall submit the burn schedule to the executive secretary on forms provided by the Division of Air Quality, and shall include the following information for all fires including those smaller than 50 acres:

- (a) Project number and project name;
  - (b) Air Quality Basin, UTM coordinate for the central point of the prescribed fire, project elevation, and county;
  - (c) Total project acres, description of major fuels, type of burn, ignition method, and planned use of emission reduction techniques to support establishment of the annual emissions goal;
  - (d) Earliest burn date and burn duration.
- (2) Each land manager shall submit each year's burn schedule no later than March 15 of that year.

(3) Any land manager who makes changes to the burn schedule shall submit an amendment to the burn schedule within 10 days after the change.

**R307-204-6. Small Prescribed Fires.**

(1) A prescribed fire that covers less than 20 acres per burn shall be ignited only when the clearing index is 500 or greater.

(2) A prescribed fire that covers less than 20 acres per day may be ignited when the National Weather Service Clearing Index is between 500 and 400 under a conditional basis with approval of the executive secretary.

(a) The prescribed fire should be recorded as a de minimis prescribed fire on the Utah Annual Burn Schedule.

(b) The Land Manager is required to notify the executive secretary by fax, e-mail, or phone prior to ignition of the burn when burning below a National Weather Service Clearing Index is between 500 and 400.

(c) Additional reporting requirements including hourly photographs, a record of any complaints, hourly meteorological conditions and an hourly description of the smoke plume must be recorded and submitted.

**R307-204-7. Small Prescribed Pile Fires (de minimis).**

(1) Pile burns covering up to 30,000 cubic feet per day shall be ignited only when the clearing index is 500 or greater.

(2) Pile burns covering up to 30,000 cubic feet per day may be ignited when the National Weather Service Clearing Index is between 500 and 400 under a conditional basis with approval of the executive secretary.

(a) The pile fire should be recorded as a de minimis prescribed fire on the Utah Annual Burn Schedule.

(b) The Land Manager is required to notify the executive secretary by fax, e-mail, or phone prior to ignition

of the burn when burning below a National Weather Service Clearing Index is between 500 and 400.

(c) Additional reporting requirements including hourly photographs, a record of any complaints, hourly meteorological conditions and an hourly description of the smoke plume must be recorded and submitted.

**R307-204-8. Large Prescribed Fires.**

(1) Burn Plan. For a prescribed fire that covers 20 acres, the land manager shall submit to the executive secretary a burn plan, including a fire prescription, upon request.

(2) Pre-Burn Information. For a prescribed fire that covers 20 acres or more per burn, the land manager shall submit pre-burn information to the executive secretary at least two weeks before the beginning of the burn window. The pre-burn information shall be submitted to the executive secretary on the form provided by the Division of Air Quality by fax, electronic mail or postal mail and shall include the following information:

(a) The three-letter ID, project number, date submitted, name of person submitting the form, burn manager, and phone numbers;

(b) Summary of burn objectives, such as restoration or maintenance of ecological functions or indication of fire resiliency;

(c) Any sensitive receptor within 15 miles, including any Class I or nonattainment or maintenance area, and distance and direction in degrees from the project site;

(d) Planned mitigation methods;

(e) The smoke dispersion or visibility model used and results;

(f) The estimated amount of total particulate matter anticipated;

(g) A description of how the public and land managers in neighboring states will be notified;

(h) A map depicting both the daytime and nighttime smoke path and down-drainage flow for a minimum of 15 miles from the burn site with smoke-sensitive areas delineated;

(i) Safety and contingency plans for addressing any smoke intrusions; and

(j) If the fire is in a nonattainment or maintenance area and is subject to general conformity (42 U.S.C. 7506(c)), a copy of the conformity demonstration showing that the fire meets the requirements of the Clean Air Act and conforms with the applicable State Implementation Plan.

(k) Planned use of emission reduction techniques to support establishment of an annual emissions goal, if not already submitted under R307-204-5.

(l) Any other information needed by the executive secretary for smoke management purposes, or for assessment of contribution to visibility impairment in any Class I area.

(3) Burn Request.

(a) The land manager shall submit to the executive secretary a burn request on the form provided by the Division of Air Quality by 1000 hours at least two business days before the planned ignition time. The form may be submitted by fax or electronic mail, and must include the following information: