

TNC of IL Plan for burning brush piles

This plan covers Kankakee Sands and follows the ILFO brush pile template

Version 2/5/21
Rob Littiken
rlittiken@tnc.org

County Name	Lat/Long	Sec	Township	Range		Project	Administrator
Kankakee, IL	-87.6414 W, 41.0721N	19	30N	11W		Kankakee Sands IL	TNC

Burn Unit Description

Fuel Model ¹	IL Native Plant Communities	Size of Burn (acres) ¹	Fuel Loading (tons/acre) ¹
Landscape fuels are 1,3,8. The brush pile are trees and shrubs piled mechanically or by hand.	Short and Tallgrass Prairie, Oak Savanna and Woodlands	< 0.1	Various pile sizes.

This plan covers burning brush piles made from thinning brush and trees of small to moderate size and number. If burning more than five piles in a day, or burning a pile longer than 40 feet, contact your fire manager.

This plan covers TNC owned lands the geographic area of the Kankakee Sands IL.

Good practice for locating burn piles: When feasible, build the pile well within the burn unit, away from the property bounds so that when the unit is burned the piles are also burned, or at least are then surrounded by black.

Brush pile 70 foot firebreak Description: The adjacent area to the burn pile, on all sides, for at least 70 feet, must have un-burnable fuels, such as snow cover that is thick enough to not allow fire to carry and the snow cover will likely persist for 48 hours. Or the area is burnt (black) enough to not hold fire, or surrounded by non-burnable tilled soils that can't carry fire, or bare soil or soybean stubble fields with no corn stalks from previous years. Or in summer full green up in non-drought conditions.

A local weather forecast will be taken from available National Weather Service. Winds will be less than 20mph during the first two hours of peak burning of a pile.

Staff will alert dispatch or local fire department during brush pile burning. Staff will alert neighboring residences that are close enough to the pile to likely be concerned.

Reporting: Staff will email the IL Fire Manager, Bill Kleiman, bkleiman@tnc.org, at the start of each day of using this plan. Staff will complete the checklist and log that follows.

Fire Behavior: Fire intensity will vary with the size of the pile, and the weather of the burn. Typically brush piles will burn with flame heights of several feet over the pile and send embers downwind various distances. The main issue is that sparks are lifted off these piles and can start adjacent or nearby vegetation on fire. Use modest weather conditions.

ILEPA permit is required but area may be covered under our prescribed fire permit. Ask Fire Manager for the current annual EPA permit.

Communications: A cell phone will be with the burn crew.

Holding: Unburnable fuels surrounding the burn pile will contain the fire.

Ignition: Drip torch, matches, propane torch.

Contingency: Call 911 for emergencies.

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Post-burn activities: Pile will be monitored continuously while in peak burning, and checked frequently until nightfall or the pile has burned down to coals. Pile burn will be checked periodically until cold.

Exemption from TNC Fire Management Guidelines: Fire shelters are not required for burning brush piles in this particular burn plan as fuel type offers little mineral soils for shelter deployment.

Consequence Analysis: On file. Not high consequence.


Review of Laws: On file, same as for our Rx fires.

This plan is for TNC lands. For Private Lands, secure the proper documents and submit to Fire Manager for amendment approval. Documents needed will include Conflict of Interest and Private Benefits screening, landowner permission/waiver signed.

Day of fire complete and sign Non-Broadcast Burn checklist which follows. Take a photo of the signed checklist for documentation.

During Covid there are three documents needed: BU Approval of Activity, Daily Covid Go-NoGo Checklist, Daily Wellness checks.

Emergency Telephone Numbers		Burn Activity Contacts	
	Phone #		Phone #
Fire Dept	911		
Bill Kleiman, ILFO Fire Manager	(815) 973-0245 cell.	Rob Littiken	219-775-0763
Personnel Needs			
Task	Position and quantity of crew		
Remote Go/No go decision maker	FFT1 trainee or higher, but notify ILFO fire manager Bill K before		
On site crew to burn brush pile(s)	Minimum two crew while active flames, and then one person to monitor and patrol for hours or days after initial burn activity. At least one crew at RXCM to start burn pile burning. Crew will have been trained by local staff on pile burning protocols, equipment, and has this plan with them. Additional crew can be at Supervised Participant level.		
Equipment Needs			
Number needed	Equipment Type	Source	
	Cotton/wool clothing, safety glasses, leather gloves or Fireline PPE is required		
1	Cell Phone		
1	First Aid kit in vehicle		

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	Headlamp if working after dark	
Smoke management procedures		
Crew will stay out of smoke as much as possible. Local weather will be checked beforehand to ensure that smoke will not affect sensitive areas.		
Signatures		
Written by Rob Littiken. Plan expires January 30, 2026.		
Technical Review by	Title: Signature: NA. (But Blane reviewed this template)	Date:
Approved by Bill Kleiman	Title: ILTNC Fire Manager Bill Kleiman Signature: 	Date: 02/05/2021

NON-BROADCAST BURNING CHECKLIST AND CREW BRIEFING

Site: _____ **Burn Unit:** _____ **Date:** _____

A. PRIOR TO CREW BRIEFING

- ☐ Burn Permits obtained. Give permit # if applicable:
- ☐ Required firebreaks complete.
- ☐ Official and neighbor notifications complete.
- ☐ Required suppression equipment is on-site and functioning.
- ☐ Planned ignition and containment methods are appropriate.
- ☐ Planned contingencies and mop-up are appropriate.
- ☐ List of emergency phone numbers in each vehicle.
- ☐ Off site communications available and functioning (cell phone, two-way radio)
- ☐ Approval received from Fire Manager

B CREW BRIEFING

- ☐ Hazards discussed.
- ☐ Purpose of burning.
- ☐ Anticipated fire and smoke behavior.
- ☐ Review of equipment and troubleshooting.
- ☐ Review organization of crew and assignments.
- ☐ Review methods of ignition, holding, mop-up, communications.
- ☐ Review contact with the public; traffic concerns.
- ☐ Location of vehicles, keys, and nearest phone.
- ☐ Location of back-up equipment, supplies, and water.
- ☐ Review all contingencies including escape routes.

- ☐ Review mop-up procedures.
- ☐ Answer questions from crew.
- ☐ Give crew members the opportunity to decline participation.

C. PRIOR TO IGNITION

- ☐ Weather and fuel conditions are suitable.
- ☐ Weather forecast obtained and needed parameters will hold two hours past expected duration of burn.
- ☐ Crew members have appropriate protective clothing.

D. BEFORE LEAVING BURN UNIT

- ☐ Mop-up completed as described in plan.
- ☐ Next morning inspection arranged.
- ☐ Notifications of completed burn (if required).

E. NOTE ANY MODIFICATIONS TO RX

Non- Broadcast Burn Lead Staff (FFT 1): _____

Date: _____

List other crew involved:

Log

Crew person name	Date	Time	Sequence
			Pile(s) ignition started
			Pile checked
			Pile checked
			Pile checked
			Pile burnt down to coals
			Pile checked
			Pile checked
			Pile checked
			Pile checked
			Pile cold

SAFETY AND MEDICAL

Kankakee County Dispatch (815)937-8479.

Medical aid: **Riverside Hospital in Kankakee** on SR 17, See map.

