



Firebreak - 394

<i>Massachusetts Firebreak Job Sheet</i>		
Client:	Farm #:	Tract #:
Planned By:	Date:	
Purpose (check all that apply):		
<input type="checkbox"/> Reduce the spread of wildfire	<input type="checkbox"/> Contain prescribed burns	

DEFINITION

A firebreak is a permanent or temporary strip of bare or vegetated land established to retard fire.

WHERE USED

This practice is used on any land use where protection from wildfire is needed or prescribed burning will be applied.



SPECIFICATIONS

Firebreaks should be located on the contour where practical to minimize the risk of soil erosion. Firebreak construction must comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations. In Massachusetts, the Forest Cutting Act and the laws pertaining to slash will be applicable in most situations.

Four types of firebreaks are adaptable to the various needs and conditions existing in Massachusetts. These include:

1. Forest or farm roads,
2. Plowed, disked, or bladed firebreaks,
3. Burned firebreaks, and
4. Vegetated firebreaks.

Forest or Farm Roads: existing or newly constructed roads or trails can be effective fire breaks if properly maintained. The travel surface of roads should be a minimum of 10 feet in width and woody debris should be routinely removed from the road.

Plowed, Disked, or Bladed Firebreaks: These temporary firebreaks are constructed by disking, plowing, or blading the existing vegetation in order to expose bare soil. They should be constructed immediately before a proposed burn and they should be wide enough to retard a slow moving ground fire (generally 6 to 12 feet wide minimum).

Burned Firebreaks: These temporary firebreaks consist of two, 5 feet wide, parallel, plowed or disked strips, which are a minimum of 20 feet apart. Logs, woody slash, and other flammable materials which are likely to burn for several hours should be removed from the area between the strips. The area between the strips is then burned which creates the firebreak.

Vegetated Firebreaks: These firebreaks are created by cutting and clearing trees and scrubby growth. They are typically used with prescribed burns to manage Pitch Pine-Scrub Oak communities in Massachusetts. If the firebreak is to be permanent, it should be 50 feet wide in a forest setting in order to allow sufficient sunlight to allow herbaceous species to grow.

Firebreak Information						
<i>Planned</i>						
Field No.	Firebreak Type (and proposed predominant vegetation – if applicable)	Temp or Perm	Firebreak Width (ft)	Firebreak Length (ft)	Erosion Potential (i.e., yes or no)	Erosion Control Measure to be Used
Additional Specifications:						
<i>Applied</i>						
Field No.	Firebreak Type (and proposed predominant vegetation – if applicable)	Firebreak Width (ft)	Firebreak Length (ft)	Erosion Potential (i.e., yes or no)	Erosion Control Measure Used	

Operation and Maintenance (check all that apply):	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prior to any prescribed burn, inspect all firebreaks for woody materials such as dead limbs or blown down trees and remove them from the firebreak.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Inspect permanent, bare ground firebreaks at least annually and rework as necessary to keep them clear of flammable vegetation.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Repair erosion control measures as necessary to ensure proper function.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mow, cut or disk firebreaks to avoid a build-up of excess litter and to control unwanted vegetation.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Control access by vehicles or people, as necessary, to prevent damage to firebreak.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bare ground firebreaks which are no longer needed shall be stabilized.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Additional O & M Requirements:</i>

Provide a map (may be attached) showing the location of the proposed practice and practice components.
 Scale 1"= _____ ft. (NA indicates sketch not to scale: grid size=1/2" by 1/2")

PRACTICE CERTIFICATION

- 1) Complete the 'applied' sections of the information table.
- 2) Modify the practice location map if applicable.
- 3) Complete the following certification statement:

I certify that the installation meets does not meet NRCS standards and specifications and is in compliance not in compliance with any permits as applicable.

 Inspector

 Date Inspected

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