

DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS Firebreak (394)

1. Conservation Practice Reference Materials

The following materials and sources shall be used when designing, installing or managing a Firebreak

- Electronic Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG), Section IV, Conservation Practice Standard - Firebreak (394)
- eFOTG, Section IV, Practice Design and Installation Guide - Firebreak (394)
- eFOTG, Section IV, Pasture and Hayland Planting, Design and Installation Guide - Section IV
- Though not required the following reference materials or sources will provide planners a broader background for the design and installation of firebreaks
 - Local fire departments
 - <http://www.firewise.org/co/>
 - Brochures available from the North Dakota Forest Service -
 - Wildfire Home or Farm Hazard Rating
 - Protecting Your Property from Wildfire
 - 10 Steps to Being Firewise in North Dakota

2. Site Investigation/Data Collection

- Name, address, legal description phone number of landowner
- Date of planned design
- Name of designer
- Program, contract number and item # if appropriate
- Purpose of the practice (prevent wildfire, contain prescribed burns, other)
- Area needing protection (forestland, grassland, wildlife area, structures, windbreaks, cropland, feed supplies, other)
- Fire Hazard - fuel types (herbaceous vegetation <18" high, herbaceous vegetation 18"-48" high, herbaceous vegetation >48" high, shrubs and brush >48" high, deciduous trees > 10' Conifers < 10' high, conifers > 10' high)
- Land slope in area of firebreak

3. Design Surveys

- Visual inventory of fire hazard, property at risk, condition of defensible space, slope conditions, etc to determine needed firebreak width and management needs inside the firebreak.
- Slope measurements to determine need for and spacing of waterbars.
- Observations of existing vegetation to determine appropriate site preparation before seeding.

4. Design Plans and Specifications

- Locations of firebreaks shall be documented on a scaled sketch, aerial photo, and digital ortho quad. Locations with reference to legal descriptions shall be noted on the image.
- Firebreak Form (394) may be used to record design information. If not used the following information shall be recorded.
- Firebreak type (temporary or permanent)

- Temporary Firebreak
 - number of months needed
 - establishment method (blading, tillage, chemical fallow)
 - planned width and applied width
 - land slope upwind of firebreak
- Permanent or Combination Firebreak
 - Non-vegetated Component
 - establishment method (blading, tillage, chemical fallow)
 - Vegetated Component
 - (mowed <6", irrigated, grazed < 3", harvested or removed, low green veg not mowed or grazed)
 - planned width and design width for each component

For firebreaks requiring seeding establishment refer to the eFOTG practice Pasture and Hayland Planting (512). Adhere to the documentation requirements of that practice as well as firebreak documentation requirements listed here.

For firebreaks that are part of a prescribed burning plan refer to the eFOTG practice Prescribed Burning (338). Adhere to the documentation requirements of that practice as well as firebreak documentation requirements listed here.

5. Material Parameters for Practice Implementation

Seed used to establish firebreaks shall be any combination of the species listed in the Firebreak Design and Installation Guide (394)

Seed quality, handling and planting shall be according to the Pasture and Hayland Planting Design and Installation Guide.

6. Layout and Installation Procedures

Sufficient staking flagging or other means shall be employed to adequately mark the location of the practice on the ground so that installation can be completed according to design specifications. When combination firebreaks are design, on-ground staking shall clearly differentiate between the non-vegetated and the vegetated portions.

When waterbars are required as per the Design and Installation Guide, record the number needed, average length and average spacing

7. Compliance with Delivered Plan and Recordkeeping

Firebreak form ND-CPA-394e may be used to certify completion of the practice or to note deficiencies of the practice.

Designer shall certify that practice was installed according to the design. If changes from the original design were made, but still fall within the design criteria of the Design and Installation Guide, they shall be noted and the practice certified as complete. Copies signed and dated by the designer shall be provided to the landowner, the installer (contractor), and the local NRCS field office.

If practice was not installed according to the design, the deficiencies shall be made known to the landowner.