

**Texas Prescribed Burning
Job Approval Authority**

**TX-ECS-19
March 2007**

Name _____ Title/Grade _____ Location _____
 Recommended by _____ Title _____ Date _____
 Approved by (ASFO) _____ Title _____ Date _____
 Approved by (SRM) _____ Title _____ Date _____

Job Class	Description	Approval Authority	Training Authority
Prescribed Burn Planning Authority	Prescribed Burn Planning Authority - Successful completion of 16 hours of formal training addressing: fire ecology and behavior, fire safety, fire effects on wildlife, soils, hydrology and vegetation response. To maintain planning authority one must attend a one-day refresher course once every three years.		
Class Ia	Maintenance Burn (80-20-20) Size of area (See note on reverse): Less than 100 acres Vegetation: non-volatile herbaceous and woody species Terrain: 5% slope or less		
Class Ib	Maintenance Burn (80-20-20) Size of area (See note on reverse): Less than 320 acres Vegetation: non-volatile herbaceous and woody fuel Terrain: 5% slope or less		
Class Ic	Maintenance Burn (80-20-20) Size of area (See note on reverse): Less than 640 acres Vegetation: non-volatile herbaceous Terrain: 5% slope or less		
Class II	Maintenance Burn (80-20-20) Size of area (See note on reverse): Less than 100 acres Vegetation: Same as Class Ia plus volatile herbaceous species and live volatile woody species less than 4 feet tall. Terrain: 8% slope or less		
Class III	Maintenance Burn: Cool Season (80-20-20) Size of area (See note on reverse): Less than 640 acres Vegetation: Same as Class Ic plus live volatile woody species greater than 4 feet tall and dead volatile woody species. Terrain: 12% slope or less		
Class IV	Maintenance Burn: Cool Season (80-20-20) Size of area (See note on reverse): no restrictions Vegetation: no restrictions Terrain: no restrictions		
Class Va	Maintenance Burn: Warm Season (100-20-15-6) Size of area (See note on reverse): Less than 640 acres Vegetation: Same as Class Ic plus live volatile woody species greater than 4 feet tall and dead volatile woody species. Terrain: 12% slope or less		
Class Vb	Maintenance Burn: Warm Season (100-20-15-6) Size of area (See note on reverse): no restrictions Vegetation: no restrictions Terrain: no restrictions		
Class VI	Reclamation Burn Size of area (See note on reverse): no restrictions Vegetation: no restrictions Terrain: no restrictions		

Criteria

Class	Name and Description of Job Authority *
Class I	Maintenance Burn - Individual must have properly planned at least three Class I burns which have been approved. Must have successfully completed formal training that included a field training burn, and must have been involved in at least three prescribed burns where NRCS provided technical assistance. Must have demonstrated good judgment, knowledge, and skills for Class I burns.
Class II	Maintenance Burn - Individual must have Class I approval authority*, must have participated in at least three supervised Class II burns and must have demonstrated good judgment, knowledge, and skills for Class II burns.
Class III	Maintenance Burn - Individual must have Class II approval authority*, must have participated in at least three supervised Class III burns and must have demonstrated good judgment, knowledge, and skills for Class III burns.
Class IV	Maintenance Burn - Individual must have Class III approval authority*, must have participated in at least three supervised Class IV burns and must have demonstrated good judgment, knowledge, and skills for Class IV burns.
Class V	Maintenance Burn - Individual must have Class III or Class IV approval authority*, must have participated in at least three supervised Class V burns and must have demonstrated good judgment, knowledge, and skills for Class IV burns.
Class VI	Reclamation Burn - Individuals must have Class V approval authority, must have participated in at least three supervised Class VI burns and must have demonstrated good judgment, knowledge, and skills for Class VI burns. In addition, Class VI burns are reclamation burns and are considered an accelerating practice which is often conducted under near unsafe conditions and normally involves crown fires. For this reason specialized formal training is required to achieve this level of approval authority.

Note 1: Size of Area: Contiguous acres to be burned on a single management unit during the same growing season are considered to be one prescribed burn regardless of how many individual segments the fire is divided into. Total acres for any prescribed burn cannot exceed the Size of Area limits for the appropriate job classification.

Note 2: In order to maintain job approval authorities, employees must meet necessary refresher training and/or continuing education credit requirements as identified by the State Conservationist. Employees failing to meet state certification levels regarding prescribed burning are considered working outside their job approval authority.

* Approval authority is usually progressive, however an employee could initially start and acquire any class depending on experience, training, locality, and recommendation.