



EQIP 383-Fuel Break PRACTICE GUIDELINES

EQIP FY 2009 Scenario: Remove combustibile and ladder fuels

Practice Life: 1 year

Participant: _____

EQIP Contract Number: _____

Purposes of Cost Share Practice

- Control and reduce the risk of the spread of fire by treating, removing or modifying vegetation, debris and detritus.

Conditions for practice eligibility:

- The landowner must participate in the EQIP application and contract; and, must meet all EQIP requirements including private nonindustrial forestland owner criteria. Other participants are subject to EQIP eligibility requirements.
- Fuel break must be planned/applied on forest or wildlife land in conjunction with a firebreak (394). The fuel break is required to provide additional protection from wildfire; or to contain a prescribed burn (338).
 - Fuel breaks used for successful application of prescribed burning in an EQIP contract must be determined recommended, needed and feasible by an appropriate professional as specified in EQIP 338 - Prescribed Burning Practice Guidelines.
 - Fuel breaks for wildfire protection require a Forest Management, Stewardship or practice plan written or approved by a registered forester that documents the fuel break need on the treatment area.
- **Minimum Practice Requirements (EQIP payment rate includes all practice requirements)**
- North Carolina Practice Standard for Fuel Break (383) will be used.
- Practice must be part of a contract that obligates at least \$1000.

Considerations

- A fuel break provides more fire protection and suppression benefits when supplementing a fire break. It will provide a wider protection distance of reduced fuels when added to the width of the firebreak.
- Width of the fuel break will depend on the type and height of the forest vegetation plus the slope of the area to be protected. A fuel break maybe widened for slope increases or heavier fuel conditions.
- Vertical separation distances are needed between the strata layers of the forest canopy. This will keep fires from climbing from ground fuels into the tree crowns. Trees and shrubs may be pruned to achieve this separation distance.
- Inspect fuel breaks at frequencies to assure that the desired level of fire spread risk is maintained.

*****NRCS use only*****

EQIP Practice Eligibility Checklist

The participant CANNOT participate in EQIP for this practice if any of the eligibility certifications are marked 'no'. No EQIP application should be pre-approved in PROTRACTS; no EQIP contract prepared; no EQIP payment authorized!

yes no Participant is a private non industrial forest land owner (PNIF); or, landowner meets PNIF and is a party to the EQIP contract.

yes no In addition to a Fire Break, Fuel break is determined needed and feasible by a registered forester, to protect forest land from wildfire; or, to allow successful prescribed burning on forest land.

Comments:

EQIP Practice Certification

Fuel break has been completed on _____ acres (area nearest 0.1 acre) per these practice guidelines and NC NRCS 383-Fuel Break standard.

Designated Conservationist

Date