



## EQIP 394-Firebreak PRACTICE GUIDELINES

### EQIP FY 2009 Scenarios:

- Establish firebreak using a tracked rotary grinder
- Establish a temporary firebreak w/ hand tools
- Establish bladed firebreak, 10-15 ft. width
- Establish bladed firebreak, 15-30 ft. width
- Refresh existing firebreak

**Practice Life:** 10 years

**Participant:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EQIP Contract Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Purposes of Cost Share Practice

- Reduce the spread of wildfire
- Contain prescribed burns

### 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, if applicable. Other participants are subject to EQIP eligibility requirements.
- Apply firebreaks on forestland to provide wildfire protection and on all land as needed to contain prescribed burns. Fire breaks will ALWAYS be cost shared where needed for successful application of prescribed burning in the EQIP contract.
- Firebreaks 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.
- Firebreaks for wildfire protection require a Forest Management, Stewardship or practice plan written or approved by a registered forester that documents the need on the treatment area.

### Minimum Practice Requirements:

- North Carolina Practice Standard for Firebreak (394) and appropriate NC Forestry Best Management Practices shall be used.
- Establishing plowed firebreaks is not authorized for EQIP Cost Share (see practice scenarios above).
- Practice must be part of a contract that obligates at least \$1000.

### Considerations for implementation of Firebreaks

- Locate firebreaks on the contour where practicable to minimize risk of soil erosion. Attempt to locate firebreaks near ridge crests and valley bottoms. If winds are predictable, firebreaks should be located perpendicular to the wind and on the windward side of the area to be protected.
- Back blade firebreaks away from the edge of streams, roads, or gullies.
- When seeding firebreaks, select noninvasive species, capable of retarding fire. Consider the selection of plant species that will enhance the needs of wildlife in the area.
- Repair erosion control measures as necessary to ensure proper function.
- Use barriers such as streams, lakes, ponds, rock cliffs, roads, field borders, skid trails, landings, drainage canals, railroads, utility right-of-ways, cultivated land, or other areas as existing firebreaks. Electric lines can be hazardous in heavy smoke as they may conduct electricity.

- Consider the effects on cultural resources and threatened and endangered species, natural areas, riparian areas, and wetlands.

\* \* \* \* \* **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 New firebreaks (not refreshed existing firebreaks) are determined feasible by a registered forester; and documented appropriately (see Minimum Practice Requirements above). Documentation should include specifications for type and size of firebreak. New firebreak type must be compatible with one of the firebreak practice scenarios.

Comments:

**EQIP Practice Certification**

\_\_\_\_\_ feet of Firebreak have been installed per these practice guidelines and NC NRCS 394-Firebrek standard.

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Designated Conservationist Date