

entire property, with goals for vegetation structure and composition and specific management goals and objectives (maintain the habitat, restore the habitat, change the habitat, for example). A fire prescription is written for each proposed fire, which includes the weather in which the burn will take place (maximum and minimum temperatures, humidity, wind direction, and speed), the fuel moistures needed to achieve the desired intensity of fire (if fuel moistures are high enough, some vegetation won't burn), the equipment necessary, the size of fire crew, who will be "burn boss", and the type and location of fire breaks. Fire behavior and weather are monitored throughout the burn, and if the prescription parameters are exceeded the fire is "shut down". Permits are required from the town fire chief and the air quality staff at DEP's regional offices. The local fire chief can of course stop the fire at any time. There is a public meeting in most areas before prescribed burning is introduced. Abutting landowners are notified of fire dates, reasons, and expectations.

Natural Communities that benefit from prescribed burning:

- Sandplain grassland
- Sandplain heathland
- Scrub oak shrubland
- Pitch pine-scrub oak
- Ridgetop pitch pine-scrub oak
- Calcareous fen
- Oak woodland

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