

General Manual  
Title 190 – Ecological Sciences

Part 413 – Prescribed Burning  
Subpart B – Policy

**KS413.11 Training**

C. For the purpose of meeting the continuing education requirement of 16 hours every 5 years, planners shall provide evidence of attendance to training events or workshops to their assistant state conservationists for field operations. Examples of continuing education would be training or workshops provided by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) or partners which focuses on one or more topics such as fire ecology, fire weather, fire behavior, fire effects, fire safety, burn plan development, or smoke management.

D. For the purpose of training NRCS employees, properly trained (minimum of 16 hours of awareness training or equivalent) NRCS personnel with recorded job approval authorities for Conservation Practice 338, Prescribed Burning, may participate in activities (permitted only during designated training events) on federal, state, or tribal land. Prescribed training burns shall be identified by the area assistant state conservationist for field operations as prescribed training burns and approved by the state administrative officer prior to implementation.

Where training burn events have been designated, planned, and approved on federal, state, or tribal lands, and where a prescribed burn plan has been developed and approved, properly trained and certified NRCS employees under the direction of the designated fire boss:

- (1) Serve as an observer for the application of the burn.
- (2) Assist in the control of the burn; during and in mop-up.
- (3) Participate and assist in making decisions, adjustments, and corrections necessary to ensure the prescribed training burn meets the planned objectives and that all participants are safe. Decision making individuals must possess a job approval authority for the designated prescribed training burn.
- (4) Assist with ignition of the prescribed training burn.

General Manual  
Title 190 – Ecological Sciences

Part 413 – Prescribed Burning  
Subpart B – Policy

**KS413.12 Certification and Authority**

B. Technical assistance provided by Kansas Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) employees will be allowed up to but not exceeding the prescribed burning job approval authority and certification level attained by the employee. In order to maintain job approval authorities, employees must complete necessary experience, refresher training, or other approved training courses.

Current practice approval certification for employees with prescribed burning experience shall be maintained and updated as necessary at the area level by the assistant state conservationist for field operations.

In order for a Kansas NRCS employee to increase their prescribed burning job approval authority, they must have properly planned and been actively involved on at least three NRCS approved prescribed burns at the desired level. Prescribed burning job approval authority will progress one level at a time based on the employee's ability to show planning prowess at the next level. These classifications are listed below.

Kansas Prescribed Burning Job Classifications, Practice Code 338

Class	Name and Description of Class
Class I	Maintenance Burn Planning only Authority to use Prescribed Burning (338) as an applicable practice for maintenance or vegetation or habitat values in the conservation planning process with landowners.
Class IIa	Maintenance Burn Design and Application Size of Area <u>1/</u> : 160 acres or less Vegetation: Non-volatile herbaceous or woody species Terrain: 5% slopes or less Fire Breaks: Green strips or mineral soil strips Humidity: Greater than 55%
Class IIb	Maintenance Burn Design and Application Size of Area <u>1/</u> : 320 acres or less Vegetation: Non-volatile herbaceous or woody species Terrain: 5% slopes or less Fire Breaks: Green strips or mineral soil strips Humidity: Greater than 55%
Class IIc	Maintenance Burn Design and Application Size of Area <u>1/</u> : 640 acres or less Vegetation: Non-volatile herbaceous or woody species Terrain: 5% slopes or less Fire Breaks: Green strips or mineral soil strips Humidity: Greater than 55%

General Manual  
Title 190 – Ecological Sciences

Part 413 – Prescribed Burning  
Subpart B – Policy

**KS413.12 Certification and Authority (continued)**

Class III	Maintenance Burn Design and Application Size of Area <u>1/</u> : 160 acres or less Vegetation: Non-volatile herbaceous or woody species (Class IIa) plus volatile herbaceous species and live volatile woody species less than 4 feet tall Terrain: 8% slopes or less Fire Breaks: Green strips or mineral soil strips Humidity: Greater than 40%
Class IV	Maintenance Burn Design and Application Size of Area <u>1/</u> : 320 acres or less Vegetation: Non-volatile herbaceous or woody species (Class II) plus live volatile woody species less than 4 feet tall and dead volatile woody species Terrain: 12% slopes or less Fire Breaks: Same as Class IIa plus mowed strips with wet lines Humidity: Greater than 40%
Class V	Maintenance Burn Design and Application Size of Area <u>1/</u> : No restrictions Vegetation: No restrictions Terrain: No restrictions Fire Breaks: No restrictions Humidity: No restrictions
Class VI	Reclamation Burn Design and Application Size of Area <u>1/</u> : No restrictions Vegetation: No restrictions Terrain: No restrictions Fire Breaks: No restrictions Humidity: No restrictions

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 the number of 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.

2/ Volatile Herbaceous Species – (List of species would include species such as annual bromes, eragrostis species such as weeping lovegrass, Triden species such as purpletop, and sericea lespedeza in a dried dormant condition.)

3/ Volatile Woody Species - (Juniper species such as eastern red cedar, conifers fragrant sumac, and any species which contain volatile oils and have the ability to ignite when directly or indirectly exposed to intense heat.)

General Manual  
Title 190 – Ecological Sciences

Part 413 – Prescribed Burning  
Subpart B – Policy

**KS413.12 Certification and Authority (continued)**

SEPARATE PRESCRIBED BURN PLANS MUST BE DEVELOPED FOR EACH IDENTIFIABLE PRESCRIBED BURN.

To have job approval authority above Class I (Maintenance Burn Planning Authority Only), an employee must have completed a formal NRCS prescribed burning training course including participation in a field burn and supervised participation in at least three prescribed burns at which NRCS provided technical assistance. The individual must demonstrate good judgment, knowledge, and skills in prescribed burning.

The following are the requirements for the job approval authority:

Kansas Prescribed Burning Job Approval Authorities

Class	Name and Description of Job Authority
Class I	Maintenance Burn Planning Only - Individual must have a good knowledge and understanding of Fire Ecology and the Prescribed Burning (338) standard and specifications as well as the effects of fire on wildlife, soils, hydrology, and vegetation response.
Class II	Maintenance Burn Design and Application – <u>Training</u> - Individual must have successfully completed an NRCS approved formal Fire Ecology training including a field burn of at least 16 hours dealing with the following topics: fire behavior, fire safety, fire effects on wildlife, soils, hydrology, and vegetation response. <u>Experience</u> - Individual must have properly planned at least three NRCS approved Class II burns equal in size to the classification level. Individual must have been involved in at least three prescribed burns equal in size to the classification level where NRCS provided technical assistance. Individual must have demonstrated good judgment, knowledge, and skills for Class II burns.
Class III	Maintenance Burn Design and Application – <u>Training</u> – Individual must have Class II approval authority. <u>Experience</u> – Individual must have properly planned at least three Class III burns which have been approved and must have demonstrated good judgment, knowledge, and skills for Class III burns.
Class IV	Maintenance Burn Design and Application – <u>Training</u> – Individual must have Class III approval authority. <u>Experience</u> – Individual must have properly planned at least three Class IV burns which have been approved and must have demonstrated good judgment, knowledge, and skills for Class IV burns.
Class V	Maintenance Burn Design and Application– <u>Training</u> – Individual must have Class IV approval authority. <u>Experience</u> – Individual must have properly planned at least three Class V burns which have been approved and must have demonstrated good judgment, knowledge, and skills for Class V burns.
Class VI	Reclamation Burn Design and Application – <u>Training</u> – Individual must have Class V approval authority. <u>Experience</u> – Individual must have properly planned at least three Class VI burns which have been approved and must have demonstrated good judgment, knowledge, and skills for Class VI burns. <u>Formal Training</u> – Class VI burns are considered accelerating practice applications which are often conducted under near unsafe conditions. For this reason formal training is required to achieve this level of approval authority.

General Manual  
Title 190 – Ecological Sciences

Part 413 – Prescribed Burning  
Subpart B – Policy

**KS413.13 Planning Prescribed Burns**

D. If a landowner/producer requests to use Conservation Practice 338, Prescribed Burning, on Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) lands, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) WRP program leader shall review an approved prescribed burn plan as a part of the Compatible Use Agreement (CUA) prior to CUA approval.

On all lands where NRCS technical assistance is requested by either a landowner or producer, a certified planner shall design, review the plan with the producer, and obtain a review and concurrence by another certified planner prior to supplying the landowner or producer with the approved plan. Form KS-ECS-338, Prescribed Burning, shall be used for the design of the prescribed burn.

General Manual  
Title 190 – Ecological Sciences

Part 413 – Prescribed Burning  
Subpart B – Policy

**KS413.14 Technical Planning and Application Assistance**

D. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) employees shall not in anyway serve as fire boss on prescribed burns in Kansas on any federal, state, tribal, or private lands. The only exception where a properly trained NRCS employee with a recorded job approval authority may serve as a fire boss for conducting designated prescribed training burns is on the Manhattan Plant Materials Center. The employee's job approval authority must equal or exceed the complexity of the prescribed training burn as described in Section KS413.12, Certification and Authority.

For purposes of assisting producers on prescribed burns located on private lands where NRCS assistance has been requested and a prescribed burn plan has been developed and approved, NRCS personnel may participate in the following activities:

- (1) May serve as an observer for the application of the burn.
- (2) May assist in the control of the burn; during and in mop-up. Ignition of fuels, spreading, or advancing fire IS NOT an approved form of assistance.

E. A producer's decision to include prescribed burning in their conservation plan does not require the NRCS to develop a prescribed burn plan unless technical assistance is requested by the landowner. The offer of NRCS assistance to develop a prescribed burn plan shall be included in the Conservation Practice 338, Prescribed Burn, narrative in the conservation plan.

In situations where a producer's confidence or experience allows them to complete the planned prescribed burn without technical assistance from the NRCS, planners shall supply the client with a copy of the Kansas Conservation Practice 338, Prescribed Burning, Standard and Construction Specifications prior to implementation. For practice certification purposes, planners with a minimum of Class II prescribed burn planning authority shall document the effect of the prescribed burn after completion to ensure it meets the purpose, intent, and objective for which it was included in the producer's conservation plan. This documentation shall be located in the conservation plan's Form NRCS-CPA-6, Conservation Assistance Notes. Individuals with Class I prescribed burn planning authority may gather evidence for the purpose of providing information to a Class II or above prescribed burn planner for practice certification.

General Manual  
Title 190 – Ecological Sciences

Part 413 – Prescribed Burning  
Subpart B – Policy

**KS413.15 Safety**

D. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) employees **WILL NOT** participate in any unauthorized deviation from the approved prescribed burn plan that jeopardizes the safety of conducting the burn.

Should such unauthorized deviations from an appropriately developed prescribed burn plan occur prior to or during the actual burn, NRCS employees shall:

- (1) Inform the fire boss and client of the unsafe conditions and unless corrective actions are taken, NRCS participation will cease.
- (2) Inform the fire boss and/or client if they continue to proceed with the burn, NRCS will discontinue providing on-the-ground assistance and local fire departments will be notified. Document the fire boss's and/or client's decision and the actions taken on Form NRCS-CPA-6, Conservation Assistance Notes.
- (3) Notify the local fire department or burn permit authority and leave the area immediately.