



TO: Southeast Virginia Prescribed Burn Association (PBA) Members

FROM: SEVA PBA Board Members and Founders

DATE: January 26, 2025

SUBJECT: SEVA PBA Operating Rules for Assisting Members Conducting Prescribed (Rx) Burns

REFERENCES: VA Code Title § 10.1 Chapter 1142-1150

1. The Southeast Virginia Prescribed Burn Association (PBA) is a registered, 501(c)3 non-profit organization and operates solely through a network of volunteers.
2. The PBA at its core is a very simple concept: “Neighbors helping Neighbors” conduct prescribed fire on private lands. The goals of the PBA are:
 - a) Provide expertise and equipment for private landowners to assist in preparation for prescribed burns on private lands, such as establishing fire breaks, preparing Rx burn plans, exemption requests, and monitoring weather conditions.
 - b) Help meet the demand for labor and equipment on Rx burn days, assist in pre-burn assessments and provide advice from preparation, test fire, and through mop-up.
 - c) Serve as a platform for connecting education and resources with private landowners and create momentum and demand for Rx fire on the ground on private lands across Southeast VA.
3. Private landowners engaging in Rx fire are responsible for creating and signing an appropriate prescription burn management plan (DOF Form 4.9), obtaining an approved exemption to the 4pm burning law (DOF Form 4.7), and acting as, or appointing a burn boss to oversee the prescribed burn event.
4. SEVA PBA will not act as the “Burn Boss” It is up to the landowner to meet this requirement. The landowner or appointed burn boss with conduct the burn from pre-burn notifications, weather check, safety brief, test fire ignition, completion of the burn, and mop-up activities.
5. Virginia is a right-to-burn state, and the use of certified burn managers are not required outside of the 4pm burn ban time of year. However, the PBA strongly encourages all members to obtain Virginia DOF Burn Manager Certification and create a prescribed burn plan, smoke management plan, and field maps even while burning outside of the exemption period.
6. The PBA reminds all non-certified members wishing to burn without prescribed burn manager certification and without following a RX burn plan and smoke management plan, that they forfeit any protections provided by VA Code Title § 10.1 Chapter 1142-1150.
7. Any liability insurance protections, adjacent property notification, DOF, and local fire dept. notification will be borne by the landowner, or contractor/consultant hired by the land-owner, where the prescribed burn is to occur.

--SEVA PBA Board Members and Founders--