



Volunteer Fire Department Prescribed Fire Recognition Award

Once again, the Sandhills Task Force is offering a **Recognition Award** for all Sandhills-based Volunteer Fire Departments (VFDs) for the 2019 prescribed fire season. VFDs who assist private landowners with prescribed fire to control invasive plants species, primarily eastern red cedar trees, are eligible.

Prescribed fire is a great tool that can be used to control invasive cedar trees, but some landowners feel they do not have the necessary protection to assure the fire does not escape. VFDs have equipment and volunteers that can help landowners safely conduct prescribed burns while simultaneously training VFD volunteers in use of equipment, fire behavior, fire weather implications, and more in a non-emergency setting. Local VFDs are staffed by busy volunteers that donate large amounts of personal time in service to their communities and budgets are very tight, so the Sandhills Task Force would like to recognize those VFDs who do assist in controlling cedar tree invasion using prescribed fire. Reimbursement will be at a rate of \$15 per burned acre, with a maximum payment of \$3,000 per VFD to spread the awards geographically. More than one VFD may split the award. Participation is defined as providing at least one truck and two trained personnel on a prescribed fire in the sandhills. Personnel need to be actively involved.

The form at the bottom of this page needs to be filled out and signed by the VFD Chief and mailed or emailed to the address below with a copy of the approved burn plan. WRP and CRP lands are not eligible. Private lands only. Funds are not available if a contractor is hired to complete the prescribed burn. Available funds are limited. Applications will be accepted until May 5, 2019, award selections will be made at the June Sandhills Task Force board meeting, and awards will be issued in July. Only complete applications will be considered. Application does not guarantee award. See map on the next page which shows area eligible for award.

RECOGNITION AWARD REQUEST

VFD _____ Address _____ City _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ E-mail Address _____

VFD Tax ID Number _____

Landowner's Name Assisted _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ Burn Plan Approved By: _____

Legal Description _____ Acres Burned _____

Date of Assistance _____ Chief's Signature _____ Date _____

MAIL OR E-MAIL THE COMPLETED FORM AND BURN PLAN TO:

Shelly Kelly, Sandhills Task Force Program Director, PO Box 482, Broken Bow, NE 68822

Phone: 308-214-0065 (call/text) - Email: shelly@sandhillstaskforce.org

Map of Sandhills Task Force Prescribed Fire Recognition Award Area

Prescribed fire must be inside boundary to qualify

