

Roadmap to Forming a Successful Prescribed Burn Association

Prescribed fire can be a powerful tool for landowners hoping to manage their land more effectively. However, some landowners find they lack the knowledge, equipment, experience, and peoplepower to implement fire. Increasingly, private landowners are turning to Prescribed Burn Associations (PBAs) to fill these gaps. PBAs are groups of people who share resources and burn together to get more fire on the landscape.

Are you interested in forming a PBA in your area? This guide breaks it down into a few simple steps.

- 1 Virtual discussion
- 2 In-person PBA interest meeting
- 3 PBA formation meeting
- 4 First membership meeting
- 5 Prescribed burn



Virtual discussion

1

Identify community members and professionals who can help get the PBA off the ground. Work with this small group to plan an in-person interest meeting and coordinate how to get the word out. Reach out to the Purdue Extension Prescribed Fire Specialist for planning and logistics assistance.

Hold an in-person PBA call-out meeting

2

Describe why fire is important and how a PBA functions, leaving lots of time for questions and discussion. Consider holding this event at a brewery or restaurant and including testimonials from professionals and landowners who already burn. Give people an opportunity to sign up and volunteer for leadership roles in the PBA.

3

Hold a PBA formation meeting

Time to get official! This is the meeting where you name the group, let folks mingle, then ask for nominations for leadership positions. Vote the Board in and let them get to work. It will be the Board's job to communicate with members, keep track of needs and resources, and come up with bylaws and guidelines.



Hold first membership meeting

Be sure to promote this meeting to all members and the public with plenty of lead time!

At this meeting, introduce the Board, vote to adopt bylaws, go over the requirements to receive PBA assistance, and solicit burn plans and projects for the upcoming season. Be sure to leave opportunities for attendees to ask questions and share ideas.



Get out there and burn!

It's finally time to get fire on the ground! Get your resources together and go make Indiana better for people and the natural world alike.

Additional Resources

Indiana Prescribed Fire Council: <https://inpfc.org/>

Indiana DNR Fire Headquarters: <https://wildfire.dnr.in.gov/>

Indiana Prescribed Burning Act:

<https://iga.in.gov/laws/2025/ic/titles/14#14-23-6.6>

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