

Oregon Certified Burn Manager Program

Oregon's Certified Burn Manager (CBM) Program provides formal training and certification of individuals in the safe and effective use of prescribed fire within the state of Oregon. This program provides limited civil liability protection when certified individuals follow program criteria.

The CBM Program is for: private individuals, landowners, contractors, firefighters, students, and anyone interested in conducting prescribed burns.

What are the benefits?



Protected air quality



Increased equitable access to use of prescribed fire



Limited civil liability protection from damages



Reduced incidents of wildfire from escaped burn piles



Navigation of regulatory and permitting processes



Improved practices in planning + implementing prescribed fire

What does the CBM Program in Oregon provide?

The CBM Program in Oregon provides:

- 1 Access to classroom and field training** in safe and effective prescribed burn leadership
- 2 Leadership certification** recognized throughout community of prescribed fire practitioners nationwide
- 3 Limited liability protection** and access to the \$5 million Prescribed Fire Claims Fund (available Summer 2024)

Oregon's Legislature passed two bills making this program possible: In 2021, Senate Bill 762 required the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) to establish CBM Programs which include requirements, standards, and procedures to obtain a CBM certification through ODF. In 2023, Senate Bill 80 provided CBMs access to the \$5 million Prescribed Fire Claims Fund.

How it works:

The Oregon CBM Program two certifications, one for pile burning and one for both pile and broadcast/understory burning. The CBM certification lasts for five years, with no costs for recertification. Those seeking historical recognition of CBM certification from another state or leadership of burns without CBM can: document prior experience and pass the CBM final exam or document existing certification such as a National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) qualified Type 2 Burn Boss (RXB2).



24-hours of classroom training
from an accredited CBM training provider + final exam



Training with a CBM on prescribed burns
using ODF-issued certification books



Payment of \$50 fee
and potentially other fees for any third party training

Tap into more Resources:

Invite your local fire districts to training burns

When you conduct training burns, remember to invite your local fire department. The CBM Program requires managers to notify fire districts if you are burning in their jurisdiction. This is also a great learning opportunity, and can improve everyone's job performance and understanding.

Does the CBM Program transfer between states?

Over 15 states have active certified prescribed burn manager programs. Each was developed differently, under their respective legislative processes. Oregon accepts CBM certifications from other states, but you must check the relevant state's regulations to see if they accept Oregon CBMs.

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Required Actions:

- 1 Following a prescribed burn plan reviewed by ODF.
- 2 Notifications of adjacent landowners
- 3 Supervision of burn through ignition and initial stages of mop-up.
- 4 Notification of relevant ODF District Burn Manager's assumption and termination of responsibility for the burn.
- 5 Avoidance of dangerous or adverse situations.
- 6 Cooperation with any investigation by the ODF Forester.

Restricted Actions:

- 1 Burning for reasons other than those pursuant to ORS 526.360(1).
- 2 Termination of responsibility for a prescribed burn without proper transfer of responsibility to another CBM or landowner.
- 3 Use of the title "Certified Burn Manager" in the case of an expired, revoked, or surrendered certificate.
- 4 Falsification of records.
- 5 Conducting burns without burn permits or smoke management clearance when required.



Photo: Amanda Rau

How to apply:

Join the listserve

for CBM Program updates.

Visit the CBM webpage:

oregon.gov/odf/fire/pages/prescribed-fire.aspx

Who to contact:



Amanda Rau

Prescribed Fire Coordinator

503-949-9763

Find out what applies to
your local area

Visit the DEQ map

Certified Burn Manager Program

OR