



## Prescribed Fire in Your Neighborhood

**The U.S. Forest Service is currently conducting a prescribed burn near your home.**

Prescribed fire is used in Lake Tahoe Basin to reduce hazardous fuels, provide community protection, and improve forest health. By combining manual removal of vegetation with prescribed fire, fire managers at Lake Tahoe are returning the forest to a healthier condition and providing protection to Lake Tahoe's residents, visitors, and natural resources. Fire education is important to us. Please let us know if you have any questions about the use of prescribed fire in Lake Tahoe.

- Some fires are left unattended once we determine they are under control. If conditions allow, prescribed fires will not be extinguished. We closely monitor weather and provide regular patrols of the area.
- Fire looks bigger at night. You will see glowing in the forest and some individual trees or logs with flames. This is normal.
- Smoke is normal and temporary. Smoke may last several days. See the back of this flyer for more information on smoke management and health precautions.

### For More Information

Please call (530) 543-2600, press 6, to access our burn day recording for updated information.

Please call (530) 543-2815 or (530) 543-2608 if you have questions about our prescribed burns or visit <http://www.fs.usda.gov/ltbmu>.



## Smoke Management and Air Quality

Before a burn is conducted, LTBMU's prescribed fire specialist calculates how many particulates will be produced based on the type of vegetation and number of acres that will be burned. The local Air Quality District regulates whether or not prescribed burning will be allowed on a given day, based on current air conditions. Areas with deep needles and large logs produce more smoke for longer periods of time.

Smoke produced during a prescribed burn is significantly less than if a wildfire occurs. Prescribed fire reduces the potential for wildfire.

If you have low tolerance for smoke, take these measures to reduce your exposure, whether in Lake Tahoe, or in other places where smoke from wildland fire is occurring:

- Stay indoors as much as possible especially seniors and children. Avoid physical exertion.
- Close windows, doors, and outside vents when it is smoky. Use a fan or air conditioner to re-circulate the air. Ventilate your home and work place during periods when it is least smoky.
- Drink lots of water, eat a balanced diet, and get adequate rest. Good health strengthens your immune system.
- Don't bother wearing paper masks. These masks generally will not protect your lungs from wildland fire smoke.
- Be diligent about taking medicines prescribed by your doctor if you have pre-existing respiratory problems.
- Consult your physician, if, after following these guidelines, you still experience discomfort while breathing.