



# Controlled Burn Policy Brief

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# Controlled Burn Policy (Informational Brief Only)

## Purpose

- Guidelines for the preparations and procedures required to perform a controlled burn, especially at stormwater retention basins
- Village maintains over 180 stormwater basins
  - Over 120 of those currently under stewardship by ecological restoration contractors (ERCs).
  - ERCs recommend that a site undergo a controlled burn approximately once every 5 years.
- Controlled burns involve the planned and permitted use of fire to achieve land management and ecological goals
  - Reducing wildfire risk
  - Restoring native habitats
  - Reintroducing nutrients into the soil to promote the growth of desired native vegetation
  - Managing invasive vegetation species
  - Aids in maintaining the basin's functionality by reducing shoreline erosion
- Performed by licensed professional burn crews

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## Written Plan/Permits

- A written plan must be provided by the contractor or entity performing the burn which details:
  - The purpose of the burn
  - The burn area
  - Necessary equipment and personnel
  - Potential hazards and safety measures
  - Weather conditions anticipated for the day of the burn
    - Optimal seasonal times of year
- The contractor or entity performing the burn shall be responsible for acquiring all necessary permits from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) and Cook County Department of Environment & Sustainability.

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## Notification Awareness

- The contractor must initially notify:
  - Orland Fire Protection District
  - Orland Park Police Department
  - Orland Park Public Works
- The Public and Elected Officials shall be notified before a controlled burn takes place to ensure awareness.
  - Public Works would notify officials via Public Works' notification distribution list
  - Public Works would coordinate with Communication and Marketing for webpage and social media
  - The contractor or entity performing the burn shall distribute notices of the burn to residents and businesses within 300 feet of the burn area at least 24 hours before burning begins
  - Signage is to be displayed around the burn area alerting pedestrians and/or local traffic of burn in progress/smoke presence

# Questions