

## Practical Advice Learned After 40 Years of Burning Sam Van Hook



- Burn Boss & Crew
- Burning & Weather
- Equipment



## Burn Boss & Crew

- Be early to job or burn... you never know what obstacles you may have to overcome before burning so you can still get burn in.
- Crew member & boss should be positive & fun to work with.
- Treat help good!

Smile!



RCW tree



- Burn boss & crew don't panic if things are going bad, keep it together as not to rattle every one.

## More Burn Boss & Crew

- Be ready to do more than one job on a burn, maybe burn boss can carry a drip torch, tools or water to help out if needed.
- BRING A LIGHTER or matches if you come to burn!
- Help train the next generation of burners.



## More Burn Boss & Crew

- Don't deviate from standards.
- Learn to burn correctly before you learn to cut corners & cheat.
- Know your crew members strengths & weaknesses.



Cell tower

## More Burn Boss & Crew

- Communicate with personnel & personnel communicates with burn boss.
- Always learn from others.
- If gut feeling says might be bad day then wait till it is right.



Truck radio



## More Burn Boss & Crew

- Start early & finish early.
- Recognize tough areas on burn.
- If 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> time burning area, problem areas the 1<sup>st</sup> time will be problem areas every time.



## More Burn Boss & Crew

- If goals are met for year for burning try to exceed those goals. You never know what weather might be next year.
- If burning going good & budget numbers have been met move money in budget to burn more.
- If you plan to burn on weekend start planning early in week for crew members & FFS approval.
- Work with the FAS.



## More Burn Boss & Crew



- Burn your land with the desired goals. Don't criticize other people's land goals.
- Own up to a good job or a screw up. You know right away if you met your goals or not.
- Safety is #1.

## Burning & Weather

- Your favorite web site is weather related & your favorite stations are weather then figure your own forecast.
- Wind is most important factor.
- Work your way into the wind, it builds safety, danger is behind you & only you can see what your fire is doing.
- People complain about smoke not fire.
- Respect lightning, it doesn't play.
- Burning is like any other agricultural endeavor, it is 7 days & not 8-5 Monday thru Friday, take advantage of good weather days.
- Plan ahead with predicted weather where you might burn several days in advance.



## Equipment

- Keep equipment simple practical & functional.
- Buy quality equipment & spend money like it is your own.
- Fix & maintain equipment if not burning because too wet or too dry of weather.
- Invest in technology.
- Carry spare parts.
- Carry 2 chainsaws.
- Water is precious use sparingly.
- Use old boat gas from marine business, they can't get rid of it & it's free.



Any questions?

