



# The Prairie Enthusiasts

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*Northwest Illinois Chapter burn by unknown photographer*

## 2025 Burn School Next Steps

Thank you for attending our annual Burn Crew School with The Prairie Enthusiasts! It's exciting thinking of everyone getting on the land to complete their field training. This email is to give you the information you need to complete the next steps for becoming a certified Burn Crew member with The Prairie Enthusiasts.

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### Step One: Watch Burn School Conference Sessions

The first step is to make sure you have attended either our annual Burn School through our virtual conference or completed the classroom portion of Burn School through one of our chapters. All the material presented is quite important. If you would like to know more about upcoming Burn School opportunities, contact [Info@ThePrairieEnthusiasts.org](mailto:Info@ThePrairieEnthusiasts.org).



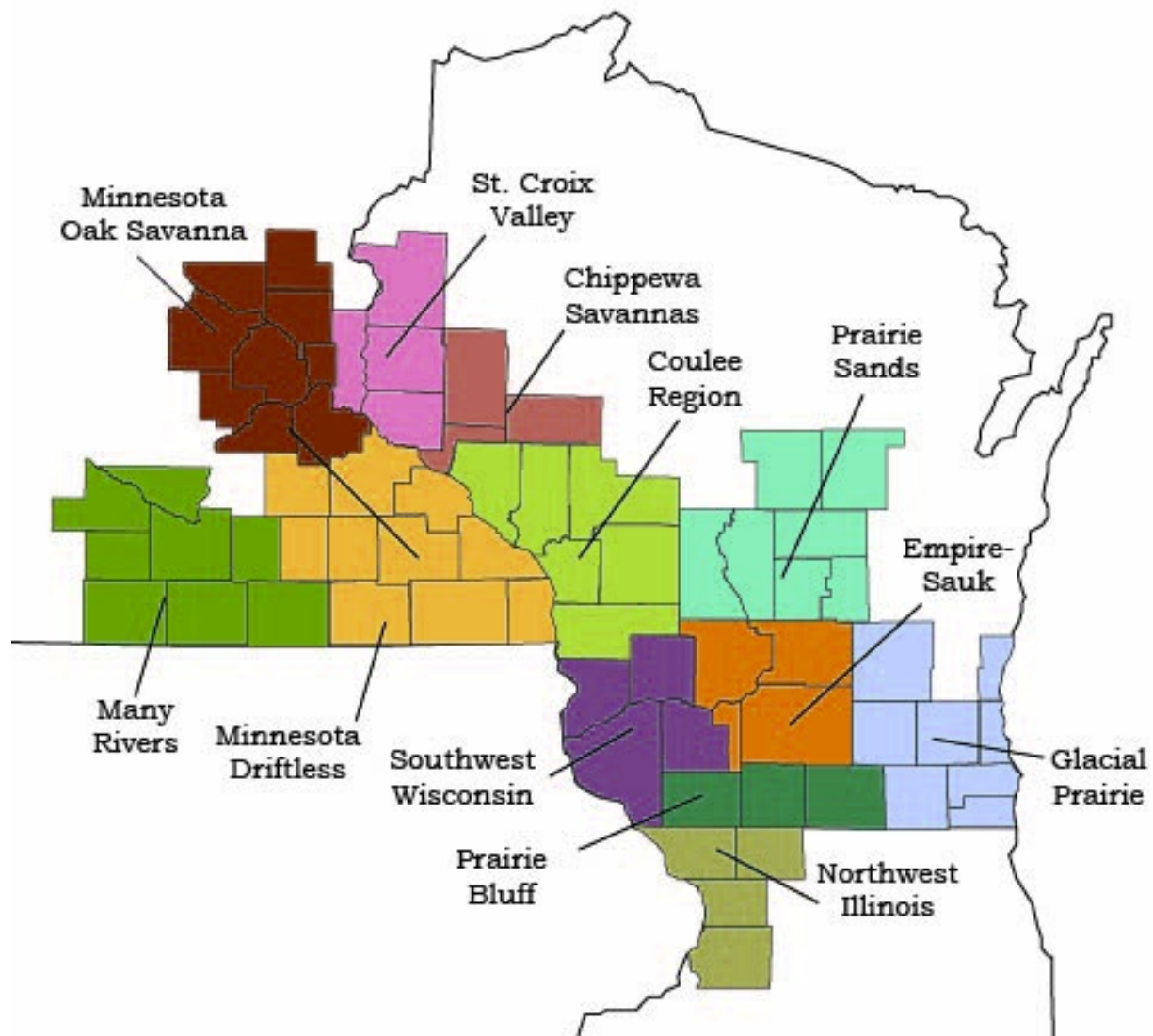
*Photo of prairie burn by Gary Shackelford*

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## Step Two: Contact Chapter and Complete Field Training Session

The next step is to complete a field training session put on by one of our local chapters. This is primarily to give you some exposure to the burn tools and equipment, and in some cases some experience with handling live fire. All our chapters do this a little differently – some as a separate program, some as part of an annual refresher for all of their members, some just prior to the first burn of the spring season, some just on the day of a scheduled burn prior to the burn.

Since we do not know which chapter is closest for you or with which you would like to burn, you will need to reach out yourself to the appropriate chapter burn coordinator to find out about their field training program and sessions. Let them know you have just completed the Burn School. Where you go is totally up to you. [Here is a map of our chapter territories](#) and the contact information for the chapter burn coordinators:



## Chapter Burn Coordinators and Contacts

### **Chippewa Savannas**

Kathy Ruggles ([EMAIL](#))

### **Coulee Region**

Jim Rogala ([EMAIL](#))

### **Empire-Sauk**

Scott Fulton ([EMAIL](#))

### **Glacial Prairie**

Dan Carter ([EMAIL](#))

### **Minnesota Driftless**

Stephen Winter ([EMAIL](#))

### **\*Minnesota Oak Savanna**



Greg Heberlein ([EMAIL](#))

## Many Rivers

Tom Romaine ([EMAIL](#))

## Northwest Illinois

Ryan Hance ([EMAIL](#))

## Prairie Bluff

Tom Mitchell ([EMAIL](#))

## \*Prairie Sands

Matt Detlaff ([EMAIL](#))

## St. Croix Valley

Evanne Hunt ([EMAIL](#))

## Southwest Wisconsin

Jack Kusmaul ([EMAIL](#))

*\*Note that the Prairie Sands Chapter and Minnesota Oak Savanna Chapter do not currently have an active chapter burn program, so you will need to get your field training and apprenticeship burns done elsewhere. Contact the chapter contact for additional information.*

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## Step Three: Serve as an Apprentice Crew Member on The Prairie Enthusiasts Burns

Once you have completed your field training session, you will need to serve as an Apprentice Crew member on two different The Prairie Enthusiasts burns. Prior to the Apprentice Burn, you will need to sign the The Prairie Enthusiasts Burn Volunteer contract, in which you agree to abide by the The Prairie Enthusiasts Burn Policy. During these Apprentice burns, you will be assigned a mentor to help explain what is going on and assist you in learning the techniques. Please try to work in as many of the different crew roles on these burns as you can. Forms for prescribed burning can be found [HERE](#).

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## Step Four: Become Burn Certified!

After you have completed your second Apprentice burn, please request with the chapter burn coordinator that you be placed on the list of certified Burn Crew members.



*Photo of Prairie Bluff burn crew by Jerry Newman*

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If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Cassidy at Chapter Support at [CCoulson@ThePrairieEnthusiasts.org](mailto:CCoulson@ThePrairieEnthusiasts.org). Keep an eye on the events calendar for future events.

Good luck, have fun, and stay safe!

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## Events Calendar

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With heartfelt gratitude,

The Prairie Enthusiasts  
Chapter Support Team



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