

State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources



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Prescribed burns planned at Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson

(Palmer, AK) – Starting on Monday, May 1, the Division of Forestry is planning prescribed burns on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, with participating fire crews from the division, the Chugach National Forest and the JBER Fire Department.

The burns will target grassy fuels on approximately 1,775 acres of military training ranges and they are anticipated to last three to seven days, depending on the weather. Smoke from the burns will be visible along the Glenn Highway and portions of the Anchorage, Eagle River, and Mat-Su communities.

The goal is to remove fine fuels, which will reduce the threat of wildfires from incidental starts that sometimes occur during training. Burning the ranges now allows for more uninterrupted training opportunities. When fires do start on ranges, all training is halted until fires are suppressed.

A prescribed burn plan developed by the Division of Forestry has been approved for this project, and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation has provided open burn approvals. Weather parameters have been developed to ensure the fire behavior does not exceed the capabilities of assigned fire personnel.

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