

Fire Prevention Management Plan

The Fire Prevention Management Plan will be prepared to assist the CDD in reduction of hazardous fuel accumulation in the preserves while maintaining the compliance requirements outlined in the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) No. 111-02031-P/120425-8. In addition, the plan will consider activities such as removing or reducing fuel loads, creating firebreaks around sensitive structures and contiguous fuel loads on adjacent properties to minimize the threat of fire spread. This will be determined by the ecologist vendor which specializes in these type of compliance and plan procedures.

All of the uplands and some of the wetland habitats found within the CDD preserves are considered fire-dependent habitats. In appropriate locations of Collier County, prescribed fire is used to manage pine flatwoods, marshes, and wet prairies to maintain native plant communities and reduce hazardous fuel accumulation. Due to the proximity of the urban development to the regulated preserves in the CDD, alternatives to prescribed fire will be assessed, to protect the Esplanade Golf and Country Club community, conserve the natural habitats, and help restore and maintain ecological integrity consistent with the guidelines of Collier County's Land Development Code (LDC).

Ecologist vendor will work with CDD staff to clarify their protocols for responding to fire incidents, communicating strategies, coordinating with local fire authorities, and determining the fire season. The hot weather and dry lightning common in Florida between end March and the middle of June is typically the peak of fire season in South Florida. However, the fire season can be effectively year-round and should be reviewed annually prior to the anticipated season to determine if conditions warrant planning for an extended season. Determination of the fire season should be reviewed when updating fire management plans to assess if conditions have changed and seasons are extending on a regular basis beyond the previously determined season. Part of the coordinating with the local fire authorities will include the revision of the CDD preserve most sensitive to wildfire due to hydrologic regimes; which appear incorrectly mapped at present (please see attached Exhibit). The areas where wildfires have been experience within the

CDD preserves are represented as low to moderate; while areas usually flooded during the peak fire season are identified as high.

