



Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences
UF-IFAS Hendry County Extension Service
P.O. Box 68
LaBelle, FL 33975

Information for the next Certified Pile Burners Course:

The Florida Forest Service and University of Florida Cooperative Extension Service will be conducting a Certified Pile Burners Course on **Thursday, October 17, 2024**. This course will show you how to burn piles *legally, safely and efficiently*. Most importantly, it could save a life. If you burn piles regularly, don't put off registering for this training. When the weather is dry, certified pile burners will receive priority for authorization to burn. Also, certified pile burners are allowed to burn up to two hours longer per day and get multiple day authorizations. Don't wait. The number of trainings offered and attendance at each training is LIMITED. This training will be held from 8:30 am till 4:30 pm at the **Southwest Florida Research and Education Center, Immokalee, Florida**. Included are a registration form and program agenda.

Registration is required to attend and class size is limited. To attend please send the following information (see form on next page):

1. Your full name (as wanted on your pile burning certificate).
2. Your mailing address (where you want the certificate mailed).
3. Your Florida Forest Service (FFS) Customer Number (It is the number that you are required to give the FFS when you call in for your burn permits. If you do not know it, please call your local FFS office and ask them to create one for you).
4. Your email address (or your office e-mail address).
5. Your contact phone number.
6. A check made out to: **University of Florida Foundation Inc.** for \$50.00.

The first fifty individuals to provide these six requirements will be registered. There will be a 7-day non-refundable fee limit. If you do not make the training and did not contact our office at least one week before the class, you will not receive a refund. There will be a test at the end of the session. You must receive a grade of 70% or higher on the exam and demonstrate a proper pile burn with your local FFS office to become certified. Once you are certified it will be noted with your customer number, thus it is important for us to have the proper number. If you do not have a customer number the FFS office will set one up for you. Fill out the registration form on the next page and return it with a check as directed.

Sincerely,
Mongi Zekri

For Questions Contact: Dr. Mongi Zekri at maz@ufl.edu or 239-595-5494

Registration Form

Florida's Certified Pile Burner Program

Thursday, October 17, 2024

**Location: Southwest Florida Research and Education Center
(Immokalee IFAS Center)**

2685 State Road 29 North, Immokalee, FL 34142 (239) 658-3400

Please send this form and a check for \$50.00 made payable to:

University of Florida Foundation Inc.

**Mail to: Dr. Mongi Zekri
Hendry County Extension Office
P.O. Box 68
LaBelle, FL 33975**

The registration fee of \$50 covers the training sessions, a booklet with all the presentations in color, other handouts/tools, refreshments, and lunch.

Name

Mailing address

Email address

Phone Number

Florida Forest Service Customer Number [Field Office Locations and Contacts / Florida Forest Service Office Locations / Our Forests / Forest & Wildfire / Home - Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services \(fdacs.gov\)](#)

This number is required: _____



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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, IFAS, FLORIDA A. & M. UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PROGRAM, AND BOARDS OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COOPERATING.

Florida's Certified Pile Burner Training

Thursday, October 17, 2024

Location: Southwest Florida Research and Education Center

2685 State Road 29 North, Immokalee, FL 34142

(239) 658-3400

All Times Are Local

1. Opening Comments and Introduction	08:30 – 09:10
2. Fire Weather	09:10 – 09:50
3. BREAK	09:50 – 10:00
4. Smoke Management	10:00 – 11:20
5. Open Burning Regulations	11:20 – 12:15
6. LUNCH (provided)	12:15 – 01:15
7. Planning and Implementation	01:15 – 02:30
8. Safety	02:30 – 03:10
9. BREAK	03:10 – 03:20
10. Public Relations	03:20 – 04:00
11. Wrap Up & Test	04:00 – 04:30

Please Bring Pencils for the Exam!



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Location & Contact Information

**Location: Southwest Florida Research and Education Center
(Immokalee IFAS Center)**

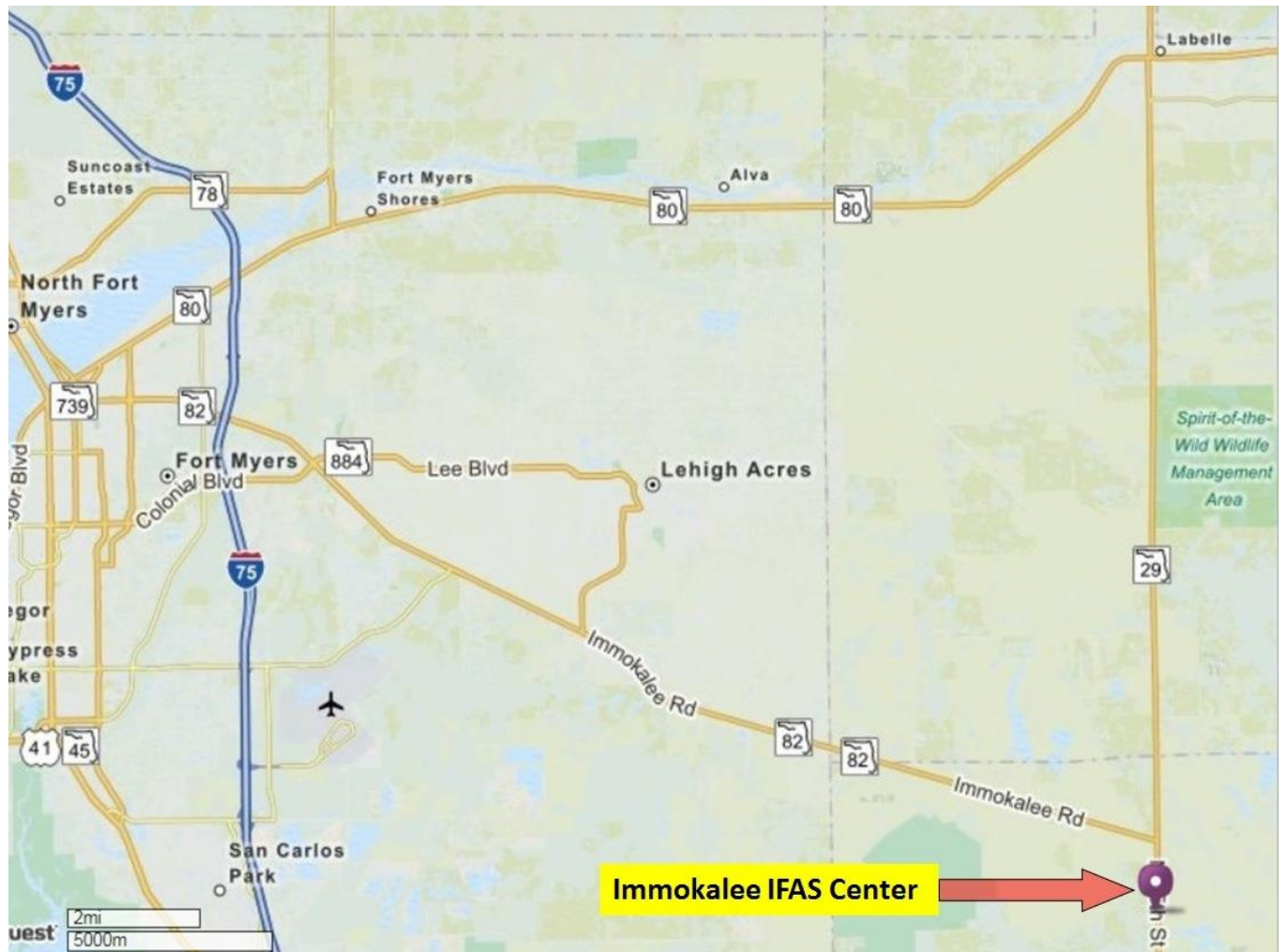
2685 State Road 29 North, Immokalee, FL 34142 (239) 658-3400

**Contact: Dr. Mongi Zekri, Multi-County Citrus Extension Agent
Hendry County Extension Office, P.O. Box 68, LaBelle, FL 33975**

Office Phone: 863 674 4092

Cell: 239 595 5494

E-mail: maz@ufl.edu



Florida's Certified Pile Burner Training Frequently Asked Questions



Q: Why should I be a certified pile burner?

A: Certified pile burners are trained to burn piles *legally, safely and efficiently*. Most importantly, it could save a life. Also, when the weather is dry, certified pile burners will receive priority for authorization to burn by the Florida Forest Service (FFS). Also, certified pile burners are allowed to burn up to two hours longer per day and get multiple day authorizations.

Q: What is a Pile Burner Customer Number?

A: When you call the FFS for an authorization to burn, you will be assigned a personal customer number. This number references your information so it doesn't need to be gathered each time you call for an authorization. You must have your individual FFS customer number in order to be certified.

Q: Is there a test?

A: Yes, the test is 20 questions and open-book. You must receive a score of at least 70% to pass.

Q: What if I don't pass?

A: Very few people fail the test but if you do, you will be provided another opportunity to take the test at a later date. If you fail the second time, you must re-register and take the training again.

Q: Why do you ask for my email on the application form?

A: Email is the fastest and most convenient method to inform registrants of their registration status. If no email address is provided then all correspondence will be sent through the federal mail. This can take several days to relay messages and this may not be practical if changes are made to the course schedule or for last minute registrations.

Q: How much does it cost to register for the training?

A: Registration for the training is \$50 per person and includes lunch, training materials and testing.

Q: How long does my certification last, and how long do I have to complete the certification from the time I finish the class?

A: As long as the person with the certification uses their number at least 5 times in a period of 5 years their certification will not expire under the current program. You **MUST** complete the certification burn within a year of taking the class.

Q: Will certified burners be notified if their certification expires?

A: Yes, notification will be sent out to them to let them know of their upcoming certification expiration date.

Q: Will I be certified at the end of the one day training?

A: No, you will need to follow the written instructions that you will receive from the FFS to become certified. You will need to complete a simple burn plan, have it reviewed and approved locally by the FFS and also have the burn itself reviewed and approved by the FFS.

Q: Is there a minimum age to be a certified pile burner?

A: Yes, you must be at least 18 years old to take the test and be a certified pile burner.