OSU College of Forestry Guard School
Non-credit version
Spring 2024

Course Coordinator:

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Description:

This hybrid (online and in-person) "Guard School" utilizes National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) online curricula, coupled with in-person, live-fire, shelter deployment, and work capacity test activities. Students work independently to complete NWCG and FEMA online modules prior to the final live fire exercise. Successful completion results in FFT2 qualification.

Students: Open to all OSU students at any grade level in any college or program, any member of the OSU faculty or staff, and agency partners/cooperators.

Prerequisites: None. Medical clearance and liability waiver required.

Time commitment: Approximately 50 hours

Fee: $50

Required text: Incident Response Pocket Guide (most current is 2022). Available here and possibly through the OSU bookstore.

Additional recommended/optional text: Firefighter's Handbook on Wildland Firefighting: Strategy, Tactics and Safety. Fourth Ed. William C. Teie. Fire Protection Publications. Oklahoma State University. Available from IFSTA or possibly at OSU bookstore.

Assignments:

- Complete the acknowledgement of risk and waiver of liability form
- Complete Work Capacity Test Health Screening Questionnaire (note which test in upper right-hand corner)
- Start physical preparations for Work Capacity Test
- Obtain FEMA and NWCG login credentials (see Accessing Online Curricula, below)
    - START this early. It can take a couple days to obtain the credentials and you need them to access the curricula.
- Complete the online course material listed below
- Review the shelter deployment video
- Attend and fully participate the required fieldwork (see below)
- Send me a good quality photo (portrait) I can use on your "red card"

Coursework (complete in this order):

- **IS-100.c** Introduction to ICS (Incident Command System (3 hours with FEMA)
- **IS-700.b** NIMS an Introduction (3 hours with FEMA)
- **S-190** Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior (7 hours with NWCG, 2023 version.)
- **S-130** Firefighter Training (22 hours with NWCG, 2008 v2 version.)
- **L-180** Human Factors in the Wildland Fire Service (4 hours with NWCG, 2014 version.)

Required Fieldwork

WCT, Shelters, Fire-lines and Hose-lays (May 19. 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)

- Meet at Hatfield Courtyard (west side of Richardson Hall)
- Work Capacity Test
    - Provide your own pack with the appropriate weight. 45 pounds for arduous rating (required for FFT2 qualification).
    - We'll conduct this physical test on campus, on a relatively flat, paved route.
- Shelter Deployment
    - Practice and then "test" on shelter deployment in or near Hatfield Courtyard.
- Firelines and Hoselays
    - Carpool to McDonald Dunn Research Forests
    - Wear your PPE (or obtain from Punches' training cache)
    - Wear sturdy boots with gripping lug sole
    - Provide your own leather gloves (if possible) and a belt
    - Bring lunch, snacks, water
    - Bring "car clothes" to change into in case you're wet or sweaty after the exercise

Live Fire Exercise (June 2, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)

- Meet at Hatfield Courtyard (west side of Richardson Hall)
- Carpool to McDonald Dunn Research Forest
- Wear PPE
- Wear sturdy boots with gripping lug sole
- Provide your own leather gloves (if possible) and a belt
- Bring lunch, snacks, water
- Bring "car clothes" to change into in case you're wet or sweaty after the exercise

Optional Learning Experiences

- Weekly presentations/discussion sessions. Tuesday evenings April 2 through June 4, 6:00 to 7:20 p.m., by Zoom. (Link provided upon registration)

Certification

Successful completion of this class results in the participant being certified as a Firefighter Type 2 (FFT2). This is the entry level certification for persons working as wildland firefighters.

Certificates will be issued approximately two weeks after the conclusion of the course.

About FFT2

The Firefighter Type 2 (FFT2) participates in wildland and/or prescribed fire crewmember operations, including ignition, control, mop-up, suppression, and monitoring. A Firefighter Type 2 is responsible for maintaining awarded training certificates, fitness test documentation, and a log or record of their wildland fire experience. A typical fire experience log will contain specific dates and locations of fire assignments; fire name, size, type and fuels; and assignment(s) held (e.g., holding crew, ignition crew, engine patrol, fire weather). Your record is your responsibility.

After obtaining FFT2 you must participate in an annual refresher (RT-130) course to maintain that qualification. (You don't lose FFT2 if you miss a refresher, but you aren't considered qualified until you complete the refresher.)

About the Work Capacity Test

The Work Capacity Test (WCT) is a physical job-related field test administered to determine a worker's capacity to meet NWCG position standards. Not all positions require the same level of fitness. It is a walking test (no running). There are three test options:

1. Arduous: walk 3 miles, carrying a 45-pound pack, in 45 minutes or less. Intended for prolonged, arduous jobs like working on the fireline while carrying tools, packs, and other equipment and wearing full PPE. This is the requirement for FFT2 qualification.

2. Moderate: walk 2 miles, carrying a 25-pound pack, in less than 30 minutes. For moderately strenuous position assignments, considerable walking over uneven terrain.

3. Light: walk 1 mile, with no pack, in 16 minutes or less. For positions of light duty and some camp positions.

- I recommend attempting the arduous rating – without it I cannot qualify you as a FFT2. That said, do not exceed your known physical limitations. You can complete this course and get certificates for all the coursework, and then do the pack test at a later date to obtain FFT2 qualification.
- See this guide for advice on the [Work Capacity Fitness Test](#) that may help you prepare for your work capacity test.
- Start training now – the arduous and moderate tests work out to a pace of 4 miles per hour, which is challenging for most individuals.
- I'll allow you to use any pack you desire, and any clothing appropriate for the weather conditions. You do NOT need to wear heavy boots or PPE.

Accessing Online Curricula

(Note: These free resources are required for the course.)

1. **Register** for FEMA SID, NFA user ID, and Wildland Fire Learn Portal. Do this immediately to avoid delayed access to curriculum.

    1. FEMA Student Identification (SID) number. Go to https://cdp.dhs.gov/FEMASID and click on "Register for a FEMA SID." Follow the instructions. This number will be required for enrolling in the two FEMA incident management online courses required for this class, and for obtaining your NFA ID (needed for accessing the fire modules). It can take a couple days for the FEMA SID number to be issued, so do this immediately so you'll get access to these modules. (Note that if you already have a FEMA SID you do not need to obtain a new one.)
    2. Create an account with the Wildland Fire Learning Portal https://wildlandfirelearningportal.net

2. **Links to Curriculum**

    1. FEMA IS-100.C ICS class: https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-100.c Look for the "Take This Course" box and select the "Interactive Web Base Course." Once complete, take the Final Exam (this will require your FEMA SID) and obtain your certificate of completion.
    2. FEMA IS-700.B. Introduction to the National Incident Management System. https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-700.b Same process as described for I-100.
    3. NWCG Fire Classes. Sign-in to the Wildland Fire Learning Portal. Click "Find Learning" then "Courses." Search for the course you want (e.g., S-130). Click the link to that course's online component then "enroll." Some courses will include multiple modules. Complete all required modules, in order. Complete their quizzes and obtain certificates.

3. **Proof of Completion**
    - Send your certificates of completion, health form and waiver, and photo in ONE email to John Punches.

NOTE – you must successfully complete all of the online training prior to the May 19 filed exercise.

Questions? Drop me an email with the question or to schedule a call.

Course Policies

Class Attendance and Participation

Non-credit students must successfully complete, and submit certificates for, all online curriculum components. ***Participation in the in-person practicum is required.***

Student Conduct:

Students in this course will be expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner. You will be expected to treat other students, instructors, and guest lecturers with dignity and respect, and follow university guidelines regarding academic honesty, student conduct, and civility. Behaviors that are disruptive to teaching and learning will not be tolerated and will be referred for disciplinary action. Behaviors that create a hostile, offensive or intimidating environment based on gender, race, ethnicity, color, religion, age, disability, marital status or sexual orientation will be referred to the Affirmative Action Office. The student code of conduct can be reviewed here: https://beav.es/codeofconduct. The Office of Student Life, https://studentlife.oregonstate.edu/, provides extensive resources and support for navigating your time as a student at Oregon State University.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

OSU is a community that includes and values the voices of all people. As such, we recognize the social barriers that have systematically marginalized and excluded people and communities based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual identity, socioeconomic background, age, disability, national origin and religion. We are committed to the equity of opportunities and strive to promote and advance diverse communities. We value and proactively seek genuine participation from these historically under-represented and underserved groups and recognize them as an essential component of creating a welcoming and rich academic, intellectual, and cultural environment for everyone. For more information on the DEI initiative, please see: https://diversity.oregonstate.edu.

Statement Regarding Students with Disabilities

Accommodations for students with disabilities are determined and approved by Disability Access Services (DAS). If you, as a student, believe you are eligible for accommodations but have not obtained approval please contact DAS immediately at 541-737-4098 or at http://ds.oregonstate.edu. DAS notifies students and faculty members of approved academic accommodations and coordinates implementation of those accommodations. While not required, students and faculty members are encouraged to discuss details of the implementation of individual accommodations.

Attachment A: Curriculum Descriptions and Learning Outcomes

IS-100.C Introduction to ICS (Incident Command System (3 hours with FEMA)

Introduces the Incident Command System (ICS) and provides the foundation for higher level ICS training. This course describes the history, features and principles, and organizational structure of the Incident Command System. It also explains the relationship between ICS and the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

- Explain the principles and basic structure of the Incident Command System (ICS).
- Describe the NIMS management characteristics that are the foundation of the ICS.
- Describe the ICS functional areas and the roles of the Incident Commander and Command Staff.
- Describe the General Staff roles within ICS.
- Identify how NIMS management characteristics apply to ICS for a variety of roles and discipline areas.

IS-700.B NIMS an Introduction (3 hours FEMA)

This course introduces and overviews the National Incident Management System (NIMS). NIMS provides a consistent nationwide template to enable all government, private-sector, and nongovernmental organizations to work together during domestic incidents.

- Describe and identify the key concepts, principles, scope, and applicability underlying NIMS.
- Describe activities and methods for managing resources.
- Describe the NIMS Management Characteristics.
- Identify and describe Incident Command System (ICS) organizational structures.
- Explain Emergency Operations Center (EOC) functions, common models for staff organization, and activation levels.
- Explain the interconnectivity within the NIMS Management and Coordination structures: ICS, EOC, Joint Information System (JIS), and Multiagency Coordination Groups (MAC Groups).
- Identify and describe the characteristics of communications and information systems, effective communication, incident information, and communication standards and formats.

S-190 Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior (7 hours with NWCG)

This course provides instruction in the primary factors affecting the start and spread of wildfire and recognition of potentially hazardous situations. This course is typically taught in conjunction with or prior to "NWCG S-130, Firefighter Training." The material is broken into three online modules (one to three hours each).

- Describe the basic terminology used in wildland fire.
- Identify and discuss the fire triangle.
- Identify and discuss key characteristics of the primary wildland fire environment components - fuels, weather, and topography.
- Identify critical fire weather factors that, combined with receptive fuels, may result in extreme fire behavior.

- Recognize how alignment of fuels, weather, and topography can increase the potential for extreme fire behavior.

S-130 Firefighter Training (22 hours with NWCG)

This course addresses the foundational skills universal to all wildland firefighters. The material is broken into 12 online modules (one to three hours each) and a mandatory, instructor-led field day exercise. Each online module explains the concepts and skills that will be performed and evaluated on the field day exercise. Module 12 contains optional knowledge areas (pump operations, map and compass, fire investigation, and cultural resources) that are very useful concepts but not required due to time constraints.

- Describe the purpose of the Standard Firefighting Orders and Watch Out Situations.
- Describe what the Lookouts, Communications, Escape Routes, and Safety Zones (LCES) system is and how it relates to the Standard Firefighting Orders.
- Describe the various communication methods and tools used for collecting, producing, and distributing information.
- Describe the standards, tools and equipment, and various methods used in fireline construction.
- Describe the methods for extinguishing a fire with or without the use of water.
- Demonstrate the ability to construct fireline to required standards using various methods, tools and equipment, and techniques.

L-180 Human Factors in the Wildland Fire Service (4 hours with NWCG)

This online course exposes students to human performance concepts as part of basic wildland firefighter training. The course is designed for entry-level operational personnel; however, this course also applies to all wildland fire service personnel, including non-operational personnel.

- Introduce human performance factors in high-risk work environments and add this knowledge to student's skill set. [Measurable objective: describe human performance factors that play critical roles in high-risk work environments.]
- Provide opportunities to explore human performance concepts and the related vocabulary. [Measurable objective: appropriately apply human performance concepts to firefighting scenarios.]
- Reinforce professional responsibility to address human performance issues while on the job. [Measurable objective: identify and describe professional responsibilities to address on-the-job human performance issues.]