**Prescribed Fire Training Exchange (TREX)**

**Integrating non-traditional firefighters onto your burn team**

Training Exchanges (TREX) allow burn teams to integrate a variety of individuals and organizations into the planning and implementation of controlled burns. Each training has experienced and inexperienced participants. Participants will have a variety of backgrounds and types of fire and natural resource management experience; land owners also participate and are assigned as firefighters on the TREX crews & modules. Many land owners have qualifying experience and some are state certified burners.

Diversifying our workforce has numerous benefits including increasing knowledge, skills and abilities of our current fire practitioner workforce by exposing them to scientific ecological knowledge; local knowledge, weather patterns, and fire behavior; cultural knowledge; experience burning in the area. Additionally if the landowners, volunteers, biologists, scientist, managers and other individuals are trained and qualified then they may be available to assist on controlled burns and other fire management activities.

To allow participants from all agencies and organizations to join the training all participants must meet National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) standard for *basic firefighter* (FFT2). If participants need the basic firefighter training one should be provided.

Training Exchanges often host the self-study S130/190 I100 and I700 course, providing the shelter practice and making the field day elements part of the first several days of the TREX (see TREX Toolkit Online 130/190). The participants receive their certificates and qualify as a Firefighter Type 2. Using the combination of self-study followed by hands on experience reinforces the learning (and is supported by recent paper).

The Training Specialist position should be on the Incident Management Team and will be responsible to ensure the S130/190 course is delivered in a way consistent with national standards, field day elements are completed and certificates are provided. The Training Specialist is also responsible to assigning these firefighters to Trainers/Evaluators to help provide and document FFT2 training and experience. We use the field day outline with the list of concepts, tools, equipment and activities that the firefighter should be introduced to. Using the field day outline like a Position Task Book (PTB) by initialing next to elements completed, lead firefighters or even FFT1trainees are able to track the progress of the FFT2.

Required activities for non-NWCG fire practitioners and first time firefighters:

* Agree to take course and attend TREX (minimum of 3 days but 7-14 days recommended)
* Complete online courses for S130, S190, I100 and IS700
* Print all certificates of completion, bring to the training and provide
* Complete a pack test at the arduous level (moderate level acceptable if participants is qualified as a Prescribed Fire Crewmember (RXCM) and not Firefighter Type Two (FFT2)
* Participate in the Training Exchange, receive fire shelter practice and complete the field day requirements
* Submit documentation and receive certificates

**Textbox:** TREX follows NWCG standards but also provides all the basic training to people who do not have it. Including the basic firefighter training allows a more diverse group of participants to attend including university students, land owners, municipal fire departments, community members and private industry; and by following NWCG standards it allows the state and federal partners to participate.

**Textbox:** (as a reminder to what the basic FFT2 objectives are)

Course Objectives:

* Explain what the LCES (Lookouts, Communications, Escape Routes, and Safety Zones) system is and how it relates to the Standard Firefighting Orders.
* Construct fireline to required standards using various methods.
* Strengthen, reinforce, and use holding actions on a fireline.
* Extinguish the fire with or without the use of water.
* Complete assigned tasks in a safe and efficient manner.
* Given an assignment in a wildfire environment, describe factors in that environment which could impact safety.