February 2015

*Links to online resources updated February 2020*

Dear Future Fire Practitioner:

I am pleased that you have decided to take the first step in training to become a wildland firefighter. You are joining a dedicated group of individuals that work hard to ensure the integrity of our natural areas and the safety of our citizens. Many of you are already doing this—as members of volunteer fire departments, as resource managers on public lands or working lands of your own, or through university studies. This training will add useful information to your repertoire. For years, S-130 and S-190 have served as the basic training courses necessary to become a wildland firefighter. They are required to participate on wildfire suppression and prescribed fire incidents. The training was always conducted as 32 hours in the classroom with limited field experience. Times are changing and it is now possible to do much of the study online, with subsequent field days on actual prescribed fires to ensure experiential learning is accomplished.

This course of study consists of four online classes (I-100, S-130, S-190, and IS-700a), one field session, and a pack test. All must be completed successfully to receive your final certificate. To help with the coursework and for future reference, you should acquire the Wildland Fire Incident Management Guide (WFIMG) – formerly the Fireline Handbook – and the Incident Response Pocket Guide (IRPG). Both publications may be downloaded for free at these web locations:

* WFIMG <https://www.nwcg.gov/sites/default/files/publications/pms210.pdf>
* IRPG <https://www.nwcg.gov/sites/default/files/publications/pms461.pdf>

The S-130/S-190 courses are available online (or using CDs, if you prefer) – please see the following page for more instructions. You will need to budget your time and work through the courses at your own pace and complete them in time to participate in the field session at the Loup River Training Exchange. (**Note**: this course content is usually covered in a 32 hour class, and it may take you that much time to cover the material successfully). I also expect that you will invest yourself fully to gain the most from this new format of instruction.

In addition to S-130 and S-190, online courses for ICS-100 and IS-700a also require completion.

**As you complete all of these courses, be sure to print your certificates. You will need to provide me with all the necessary certificates when you attend the field session.**

**Additional online course instructions - please read all of the following before you begin:**

* Please use a Windows-based PC. NWCG course CDs are currently not compatible with Mac operating systems.
* A known issue that will cause the deletion of module tracking/completion data is when the Internet Explorer (IE) Microsoft browser "x" in the top right corner of the window is used to exit the content window. If you click the “x,” all module tracking data is deleted and not recorded in the Learning Management System (LMS). This is an IE Microsoft security feature that cannot be removed from the courseware. Users must use the **"exit"** or **"next"** buttons in the content screen to ensure that module tracking data is successfully recorded to the LMS.
* I suggest that you complete the courses in this order:
* **First:** ISO100.c (formerly ICS-100) (3 hours to complete):   
  <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-100.c>
* **Second:** IS-700b (3 hours to complete)

<https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-700.b>

* **Third:** S-190 course (6-8 hours to complete) <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/training-courses/s-190>
* **Fourth:** S-130 course (1-3 hours per module, 11 modules required)   
  <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/training-courses/s-130>
* At the end of each S-130/S-190 module is a Challenge Review. Before you begin the Challenge Review, your computer MUST be connected to an active printer to receive your certificate of completion! If you successfully complete the Challenge Review, you’ll be able to print out an NWCG certificate of completion. It’s possible to “print to PDF” or to take a screen shot of your certificate - just make sure you have at least one of the above for every certificate. The summary of courses completed is not enough documentation.

As stated above, the field training portion of the course will take place on site at the 2015 Loup River Prescribed Fire Training Exchange. This training will cover skills necessary for wildland firefighting and will be conducted outdoors on controlled burns.

You may have questions throughout the course. Please feel free to inquire. I will be serving as your course administrator and mentor, and my contact information is below. You should arrive at TREX with at least 16 certificates: three from S-190, 11 (or 12) from S-130, one from IS-100, and one from IS-700a. Additionally, you will need to have taken a pack test before you arrive at TREX.

Thank you for your time and commitment to this training.



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