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FROM : National Wildfire Coordinating Group

REPLY TO : NWCG@nifc.gov

DATE : 01/29/2010

SUBJECT : SAFETY ADVISORY : 2010 Wildland Fire Safety Training Annual Refresher (WFSTAR)



WFSTAR 2010.doc



Annual Wildland Fire Safety Refresher Training - 2010

The intent of annual fireline safety refresher training is to focus line going personnel on operations and decision making issues related to fireline and all-hazard incident safety. Refresher training will ensure firefighters, and support personnel have information regarding current initiatives, the upcoming fire season, and any policy/guidance changes. Refresher training is provided in order to recognize and mitigate risk, maintain safe and effective practices, and to reduce accidents and near misses.

Refresher Website (WFSTAR)

The 2010 Wildland Fire Safety Training Annual Refresher (WFSTAR) website will be updated on February 1, 2010. This website is managed under the direction of the National Wildland Coordination Group (NWCG) Safety and Health Working Team. The purpose of WFSTAR is to provide a resource for instructors of annual refresher training to obtain information necessary to conduct relevant and engaging safety refreshers. The website identifies topics and lists a wide variety of reference materials to support refresher training.

Material for the 2010 refresher includes the National Emphasis Topic; “**Communication, Human Factors, and Lessons Learned**” with links to student exercises, and video’s. Hot Topics, What’s New, Homegrown, and web links to information are also posted.

2010 Hot Topics include but are not limited to: “Fire Behavior and Weather”, with pod casts, “Hazard Trees”, “Crew Cohesion, and Entrapment Avoidance”.

The New Topics contain information on the 2010 Incident Response Pocket Guide (IRPG), “Firefit”, and new LCES Structure Protection strategies.

Homegrown training has references to Powerline Safety, and All Hazard assignments.

The WFSTAR website is located at <http://www.nifc.gov/wfstar/index.htm>.

Refresher DVD

The NWCG 2010 annual fireline safety refresher training package “Century of Fire” DVD is tentatively scheduled for release March 20, 2010. The BIA, BLM, NPS, and USFWS will distribute 2010 video packages to their respective districts/field offices, agencies, refuges, or parks. Other agencies, as well as state and private entities (USFS, DNR, VFD, etc.) will need to order directly from Custom Recording and Sound at 208-344-3535 or fire@crsimedia.com. Personnel conducting refreshers prior to the 2010 release date are encouraged to use pertinent modules from prior annual refreshers.

Copies of the 2010 Facilitator Guide and Student Workbook will be available for download from the WFSTAR website at http://www.nifc.gov/wfstar/hottopics/refresh_video.html by March 20, 2010.

Instructors Note:

Instructors and Unit Leaders are encouraged to customize training to reach your target audience. All students should have the 2010 IRPG. Additional reference may include the Fireline Handbook and other Agency specific material for annual refresher training.

The 2010 IRPG is available for purchase through the Great Basin Cache System at the National Interagency Fire Center at <http://www.nwccg.gov/pms/pubs/pubs.htm#cat>.

The Great Basin Cache System will be closed for inventory and transitioning to a new cache tracking system from March 1, 2010 until approximately April 30, 2010. Orders to the cache should be submitted prior to the end of February.

Refresher Training Required for Some NWCG Positions

The revised NWCG *Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide (PMS 310-1)*, June 2009 <http://www.nwccg.gov/pms/docs/docs.htm> states:

- In order to maintain currency, some positions have identified recurrent training (RT) at various intervals.
- Attendance at an Annual Fireline Safety Refresher (RT-130) is required for designated positions in this guide in order to maintain currency, and for all personnel assigned to positions with fireline duties and for any position assigned to the fireline for non-suppression tasks.
- Annual Fireline Safety Refresher (RT-130) training will focus on mandatory core content subjects and not on a minimum timeframe standard. The required number of hours is determined by the agency. Core content is listed under Wildland Fire Safety Refresher Training for each agency at <http://www.nifc.gov/wfstar/policies.html>.

Refer to the *Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide (PMS 310-1)* for positions that require Annual Fireline Safety Refresher Training.

NWCG Standards for Instructors of Annual Fireline Safety Refresher Training

In 2006 the NWCG also established minimum qualifications for instructors of refresher training.

- Lead instructors must be a qualified single resource boss.
- Unit instructors must be qualified firefighter type one (FFT1).
- Adjunct instructors may be utilized to provide limited instruction in specialized knowledge and skills at the discretion of the lead instructor. They must be experienced, proficient and knowledgeable of current issues in their field of expertise.

For additional information please refer to the October 2009 NWCG *Field Manager's Course Guide (PMS 901-1)* at <http://www.nwccg.gov/pms/training/fmcg.pdf>.

Questions and Additional Information

For federal agency questions, please contact your NWCG Safety and Health Working Team representative.

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BIA	Tony Beitia	208-387-5177	tony_beitia@nifc.gov
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FWS	Chris Wilcox	208-387-5599	chris_wilcox@fws.gov

For state agencies, please contact your state training officer. If you need additional assistance, please contact the NWCG Safety and Health Working Team representative or your National Association of State Foresters region.

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