



WILDLAND FIRE SAFETY REFRESHER

INSTRUCTOR GUIDE

Mission Statement:

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 have information regarding current initiatives and the upcoming fire season. Refresher training is provided in order to recognize and mitigate risk, maintain safe practices, and reduce accidents and near misses.

The 2014 Fire Refresher was built for firefighters, by firefighters.

<http://www.nifc.gov/wfstar/>



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Notes to Instructor

Introduction

Annual Fireline Safety Refresher Training is required for all personnel participating in wildland fire who may be subject to assignments on the fireline. Check specific agency policy at the WFSTAR website to determine if this training package meets refresher training requirements of all the attendees.

Expectations

*****THIS IS NOT A PLUG AND PLAY PRODUCT. INSTRUCTOR PREPARATION AND STUDENT INTERACTION IS REQUIRED*****

Instructors should facilitate a quality refresher that engages all students no matter their ICS qualification or firefighting experience. The success of this program is dependent on your ability to stimulate meaningful discussion during group exercises. Classes with a wide array of experiences and qualifications can provide an excellent opportunity for the less experienced to be mentored and for the more experienced to rethink old habits.

Instructor Prerequisites

Lead instructors must be at least Single Resource Boss (SRB) qualified, and unit instructors must be at least Firefighter Type 1 (FFT1) qualified.

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.

All instructors will need the knowledge and skills to utilize current educational technology, as it relates to the WFSTAR website. Examples would be streaming and downloading interactive videos as well as the use of apps and mobile devices.



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Equipment and Materials

A list of equipment and other material required for course presentation includes:

- Media player
- Instructor Guide, Student Workbooks from WFSTAR [website](#)
- *Incident Response Pocket Guide* one for each student
- Sign-in sheet/training documentation form
- Flip chart(s) with paper and marking pens
- Download modules from WFSTAR website
- Optional: *New Generation Fire Shelter* video, NFES #2711
- Optional: *The New Generation Fire Shelter* booklet, NFES #2710

Administration

The instructor is responsible for identifying necessary equipment, materials, and supplies. The instructor is also responsible for recording attendance and assuring that evaluations are completed and returned:

ON THE WEB: http://www.nifc.gov/wfstar/contact_comments.html

BY MAIL: NWCG Training Development

Attn. Scott Anderson

3833 S. Development Avenue

Boise, ID 83705

BY FAX: (208) 387-5378

BY E-MAIL: s80ander@blm.gov

If all modules are utilized, the length of this program is approximately four hours, depending on time allowed for exercises. Additional time will be needed for the fire shelter deployment practice.

Encourage the students to explore the new [Tech Tools](#) web page on the WFSTAR website. Tech tools purpose is to provide a place for firefighters to get technology that helps them do their job safer and more efficiently.



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Module - Smoke: Knowing the Risks

Overview

This module is intended to raise awareness of the components of smoke, its physiological and mental effects, and ways to recognize, diminish, and recover from these effects.

Target Audience: Wildland Firefighters

Time: Video 13 minutes, Exercise 15 minutes, Total 28 minutes

Exercise: Read the scenario and in small groups answer the questions in the exercise. Have the most junior firefighter of the group answer the first question.



Instructor Tasks



- Introduce the goal listed above.
- Play the video
- Conduct the student exercise below
- Have the students use the QR code to evaluate the module



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Read the scenario and in small groups answer the questions below. The most junior firefighter will answer the first question.

Scenario:

You have been digging direct line for five days in preparation for a burnout which you are doing right now. The crew you are running has been exposed to moderate levels of smoke during that time. Some of them are getting the camp crud and everyone has some level of respiratory irritation, including you. The camp sits in an inversion and never has completely clean air. The burnout started 4 hours ago and is going well. Your crew has been assigned to hold the line, the smoke has been blowing onto your holders since the burnout started and much coughing is going on among them and is getting worse.

Your squad leader says she has a hammering headache. You ask her if she is okay and she says she is fine and to mind your own business and get her an aspirin now so she can take her squad to mopup 500 feet in and use pulaskis to fell the huge snags on the line. You give her a bottle of aspirin which she is unsuccessfully trying to open. You ask her how her holders are doing and she says the sawyers and mopup squad are felling snags in the middle of the fire and mopping up the stumps. You can't hear any chainsaws and everyone appears to be on the holding line. What will you do?

Questions to answer:

1. Is your squad leader possibly impacted by smoke effects and capable of leading others in a dangerous environment?
2. What events and indicators in the scenario give clues to the possibility of a smoke induced change in mental state?
3. What are your options to begin a recovery?

Use the chart below to help with your answers.

CO in atmosphere (ppm)	COHb in blood (%)	Signs and Symptoms
10	2	Asymptomatic
70	10	No appreciable effect, except shortness of breath on vigorous exertion; possible tightness across the forehead;
120	20	Shortness of breath on moderate exertion; occasional headache with throbbing in temples
220	30	Headache; irritable; easily fatigued; judgment disturbed; possible dizziness; dimness of vision.
350-520	40-50	Headache, confusion; collapse; fainting on exertion
800-1220	60-70	Unconsciousness; intermittent convulsion; respiratory failure, death if exposure is long continued
1950	80	Rapidly fatal



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Instructor Notes



Module Evaluation QR code



[Tech Tools](#)

