



INSTRUCTOR GUIDE



WILDLAND FIRE SAFETY REFRESHER

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 2016 Fire Refresher was built for firefighters, by firefighters.

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



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

****NOTE: 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.



Equipment and Materials

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

- Media player
- Instructor Guide and Student Workbooks from [WFSTAR](http://www.wfstar.com) 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](http://www.wfstar.com) 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.



Situation Awareness:

Overview:

The intent of this module is to initiate a discussion on observations and sensemaking in order to improve situational awareness.

Target Audience: Wildland Firefighters

Time: Video 11 minutes

Exercise: 20 minutes

Instructor Tasks

- Introduce the overview listed above
- Watch the video, and then divide into groups. Take 15-20 minutes and discuss the questions below. Share your answers with the whole class when complete.
- In order to help get the exercise started, here are some examples of attention traps: medical emergencies, spot fires, homeowners, ranchers etc.

Encourage students to submit feedback for the 2016 Fire Refresher using the QR code below.





Exercise

Situation awareness is an on-going process of gathering information through observation and communication with others. Through sensemaking these observations form an individual's perception of a given situation. The video discusses attention traps. Attention traps can narrow our focus onto a single element in an environment to the exclusion of other important signals.

- What are some examples of attention traps on the fireline?
- How can these attention traps be mitigated?

Sensemaking is the process of putting meaning to our observations and experiences.

- How does group interaction and communication help you to think critically about the situation you are faced with?
- How can you participate in the group sensemaking process?

Our situation awareness helps us to anticipate how future events might play out and make decisions that have the best chance of leading to safe mission accomplishment.

- How can you be ready to adapt your plan when faced with a changing situation?

Remember the next time you walk onto the fireline, that your situation awareness will never be perfect but it can always be better.

Instructor Notes:
