

Mid-Season Firefighter Replacement Training Guide

This document provides guidance for training of TNC employees and volunteers who join a fire crew mid-season, after the regularly scheduled 130-190 training classes have been administered. The training will meet the NIIMS requirements for Firefighter Type 2 (FFT2), including all course material for S-130 and S-190. As a Trainee, individuals may serve only on prescribed fires led by a TNC employed Burn Boss Type 1 or 2. At all times during prescribed burns, an individual qualified as FFT2 or higher will directly supervise the trainee.

Note: The FFT2(T) is a trainee position and may not substitute for a FFT2 on a prescribed burn unless this substitution is noted and justified in writing on the prescribed burn plan. For example, if a burn plan calls for a minimum crew size of six FFT2 and the burn boss believes the burn can be safely and effectively accomplished with a crew of five FFT2 and one FFT2(T), the burn boss can amend the burn plan with justification for this decision and sign the amendment. It is strongly suggested that the Fire Manager be consulted on such decisions.

S-130 and S-190 Course Work

When the trainee is hired:

1. The trainee and trainer should meet (by phone or in person) to discuss the training program, expectations, schedule, etc.
2. If possible the trainee should be given or mailed these materials for self study prior to arrival:
 - List of expectations as a trainee
 - Fireline Handbook
 - S190 Student Workbook
 - S130 Student Workbook
 - FFT2 Position Taskbook
 - S190 Videos
 - PPE (fire shelter, nomex, hardhat, gloves, etc.)
3. Fitness test should be administered (arduous vs. moderate determined by the local TNC fire manager)

When the trainee begins work on site:

1. The trainee should begin or continue studying the S190 materials and videos under the direction of the designated trainer. The trainee will complete the two unit tests in the materials.
2. The trainer should monitor the progress of the trainee and provide instruction on fire weather and behavior. A minimum of 6 hours of teaching and studying is required to meet the requirements for S190.

3. The trainee should become familiar with the burn program, tools, equipment, techniques, etc. by working with other burn crew members (FFT2s) during burn preparations and on non-burn days.

S-130 material is covered through review of the student workbook, personal instruction and hands-on training during as many as five training prescribed burns. The following topics should be covered:

- Weather tools
- Weather patterns
- Ignition tools
- Ignition patterns
- Handtools
- Pumps
- Map reading
- Patrolling, mop-up
- Safety equipment, etc.

Position Task Book

The FFT2 Position Task book will be completed as a means of documenting that all S-130 and S-190 material is given and the appropriate skills successfully demonstrated. A checklist of equipment or other local issues (developed by the local program, if necessary) should be used as well.

Evaluation

A passing score for S-190 is an average of 70% on the two Unit Tests. If the trainee does not achieve an average of 70%, at the discretion of the supervisor, s/he can continue to study and practice skills under the direct supervision of the trainer and can retake the test.

For evaluation of S-130, refer to the 2003 NWCG S-130 Instructor Guide, page 9.

"The course makes extensive use of practical exercises, performance tests, instructor observation and oral testing. In order to maximize the hands-on instruction the student receives, the written unit/lesson tests are optional and are used for student evaluation at the instructors' discretion." Additionally, "Instructors are encouraged to use the best method or combination of methods to effectively evaluate student performance within given logistical and time constraints."

Minimum documentation for successful completion of S-130 is a score of 70% on the final exam and satisfactory completion of all tasks in the FFT2 task book. Other evaluation methods are at the discretion of the trainer.

Upon successful completion of both courses, the trainee status is over, certificates are issued, and the individual is immediately qualified as a FFT2.

Training Duration

The trainee may serve in this position for five training burns only. After participating on five training burns as an FFT2(T), the trainee must successfully pass any remaining tests and complete any remaining FFT2 documentation before serving in any position on prescribed burns.

Trainee Kit

This kit is available from the TNC Fire Initiative Training Program for use when new fire personnel are hired mid season:

- S130 Instructor Guide (if needed)
- S190 Instructor Guide (if needed)
- S190 Student Workbook
- S130 Student Workbook
- FFT2 Position Task Book
- Fire Weather and Fire Behavior Videos
- Fireline handbook
- 2 Blank NWCG certificates for printing

Source: TNC *Fire Management Manual*
<http://www.tncfire.org/manual/guidelines.htm>
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