

RT-130

Annual Wildland Firefighter Refresher 2021



The intent of the Annual Wildland Firefighter Refresher (RT-130) is to re-familiarize line operational wildland firefighters with the challenges, hazard identification, and hazard mitigation necessary to prevent and reduce accidents and near misses on wildland fires.

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 - A. EIFCA Covid-19 Flier**
 - B. Fire Management Board Memorandum – Covid-19 Mitigations**
 - C. Wild Mountain Fire Rapid Lesson Sharing**

1. Local Topics:

A. Season Summary 2020:

Go to: <https://www.nwccg.gov/publications/training-courses/rt-130/wfstar-catalog>
Search: 2020 Summary – Once available, 2020 Season Summary will populate.

B. Weather Outlook 2021

- Seasonal Outlook for February - May 2021
 - o <https://gacc.nifc.gov/gbcc/predictive/docs/monthly.pdf>
- Current drought conditions:
 - o [Current Map | United States Drought Monitor \(unl.edu\)](#)

C. Eastern Idaho Interagency Fire Center Statistics 2020:

- 150 fires totaling 19,839 acres.
- 87% (130 of 150) were human caused.
- 140% of ten-year average for number of fires.
- 25% of ten-year average for acres burned.
- Past Fire Activity:

	2019	5 Year Average	10 Year Average
Fire	87	100	107
Acres	138,585	96,328	79,908

- Large Fire Activity 2020:

Jurisdiction	Fire Name	Date	Acres	Cause
ID-IFD Upper Snake Field Office	Howe Peak	7/2/20	6,617	Human
ID-IFD Upper Snake Field Office	Telegraph	7/8/20	2,153	Human
ID-IBN Bannock County	Chinese Peak	7/19/20	1,546	Human
ID-INE Idaho National Lab	Lost River	8/6/20	914	Lightning
ID-2FN Fremont County	North Juniper	11/4/20	1000	Human

D. Covid-19 Protocol 2021

- Read attached Covid-19 document – “EIFCA_Covid_19_Flier”

- **Incident Response:**
 - Maintain social distancing of 6 feet.
 - Wear masks when social distancing is not possible.
 - Limit group gatherings.
 - Consider separating resources during overnight situations.
 - Follow local Covid 19 policy guidelines.

2. Fire and Aviation Operational Safety:

A. WFSTAR: Standard Firefighting Orders (**Time permitting, optional to skip video to discuss Standard Firefighting Orders.**)

Have firefighters reference the back page of the IRPG during the video.

<https://youtu.be/9WhKKSGI9K0> - 4:19

- Discussion:
 - Have firefighters give examples of the importance of the Firefighting Orders.
 - How do you stay informed on fire weather conditions and forecasts?
 - Have class members describe situations where instructions were unclear, and how those situations were handled, and what was the takeaway from the situation?

B. WFSTAR: Watchout Situations (**Time permitting, optional to skip video to discuss Standard Firefighting Orders.**)

Have firefighters reference the back page of the IRPG during the video.

<https://youtu.be/NW69njY0CJY> - 6:11

- Discussion:
 - Discuss ways to mitigate the 18 watchout situations.
 - Ask firefighters attending the course, if a watchout situation has led to a near miss, and what was learned from this near miss?

C. WFSTAR: Lookouts, Communication, Escape Routes, Safety Zones (IRPG Pg. 7) (**Time permitting, optional to skip video to discuss Standard Firefighting Orders.**)

<https://youtu.be/46kiCPfUyg> 3:19

- Discussion:
 - When should lookouts be established? What is the importance of a lookout?
 - Discuss incidents course members have been on, where there was limited or no communication. How was communication established?
 - What are some watch out situations relating to lack of communication?
 - Describe a situation that would warrant reestablishing escape routes or safety zones. What are some considerations to ensure escape routes/safety zones are always available and appropriate? Are tactics being effective? Frequent spot fires across the line? Change in wind direction?
 - List examples of when an escape route or safety zone needs to be reestablished.

D. WFSTAR: Risk Management Process

Have firefighters locate the Risk Management Process in the IRPG, pg. 1.

https://youtu.be/fS2_hIzP7zo - 14:40

- Discussion:
 - What are the 5 elements of the risk management process?
 - What are some local hazards, and how would you mitigate them?

E. WFSTAR: Firefighting Airspace

<https://youtu.be/6AcsW7XbySA> - 10:33

- Discussion:
 - What are some of the hazards when working around aircraft?
 - What are ways to avoid dangerous situations when working in the vicinity of aircraft?
 - Discuss the importance of communication between ground resources and aviation resources.

F. Arrival on Scene

- Discussion:
 - Discuss local initial attack response policy
 - Discuss the role of the Incident Commander
 - Discuss chain of command and who you work for
 - Discuss the importance of a staging area
 - Discuss the benefits of using common terminology during cooperative incidents
 - Discuss what it means to work for a position on the incident, versus working for your local department
 - Discuss an incident with multiple cooperators and agencies coming together, discuss how to achieve a common goal through communication and organization

- Initial Attack Recap:
 - Establish LCES
 - Risk Management Assessment
 - Staging Area
 - Objectives
 - Strategies/Tactics
 - Briefing

3. Incident Review

- For incident review please read the attached Wild Mountain Rapid Lesson Sharing – “WildMountain_RLS” (PDF). Once completed, review discussion points below.
 - Discussion:
 - What lessons were learned from this incident?
 - What watch out situations contributed to this incident?
 - Could anything have been done differently?
 - Discuss the importance of a spotter.
 - Does your department have a policy on rolling attack?
 - Discuss terminology being used to describe the situation.
 - Discuss operational tempo, and how that effects the outcome of the emerging incident.

4. Human Factors/Communication/Decision Making:

A. Human Factors

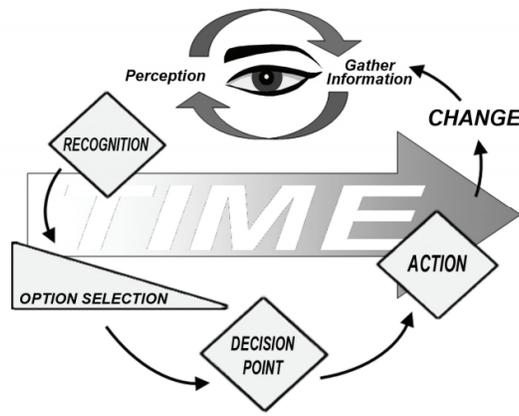
- Have firefighters reference IRPG pg. xi
- Human factors need to be taken into consideration during initial response and extended attack long duration fires. Address fatigue, distractions, stress reactions, and hazardous attitudes.
- <https://youtu.be/O0NEN97OELo> - 9:29
 - Discussion
 - What are some human factor barriers, firefighters are challenged with?
 - What are ways to mitigate the human factors present?
 - Have firefighters in the class give examples of human factors on an incident, and how the situation was handled?

B. Communication

- Communication is an integral part of incident response. Communication can present challenges to an emerging incident. This section will cover ways to overcome communication issues and barriers, and considerations that need to be accounted for, so all firefighters are on the same page.
- https://youtu.be/_374pmZdvrA - 12:23
 - Discussion
 - What are the main methods of communication on wildfires?
 - What are the different frequencies, and what are they used for? Tactical, Command, Air to Ground, Medical
 - What are some communication challenges when cooperating with agency or local resources, and what are some ways overcome these communication barriers?

C. Decision Making: The Decision Cycle

- <https://youtu.be/TyUo3gDBYE8> - 17:07



The Decision Cycle

○ Discussion

- Discuss the Decision Cycle, and work around the cycle discussing each point.
- Situational Awareness – Discuss ways to gather information and situational awareness.
- Recognition – Recognize and address problem or change.
- Option selection – Select option, course of action.
- Decision point – Initiate course of action.
- Action – Make sure the action taken is carried out, assess the ongoing operation to update situational awareness.
- Time – Evaluate plan and decide if strategy and tactics are still effective as time goes on.

5. Fire Shelters/Entrapment Avoidance:

- New Generation Shelter PDF:
 - <https://www.nwccg.gov/sites/default/files/publications/pms411.pdf>

- Key points to discuss with group using the PDF link
 - Components of the fire shelter.
 - Escape – Making the decision to deploy.
 - Selecting your site.
 - Deployment procedure.
 - Items to keep out of the shelter.
 - Items to bring into the shelter.
 - Conditions inside the shelter.
 - When to leave the shelter.

- Mud Lake Shelter Deployment
 - <https://youtu.be/cjKh94fz5eM> - 16:55

 - Discussion:
 - What were some challenges the firefighters in the video were presented with once their engine was compromised?
 - What were some things the firefighters did well during the deployment?
 - Talk among the group and discuss the take-aways from the situation presented in the Mudd Fire deployment video.

- Practice fire shelter deployment exercise
 - Please read the attached Fire Management Board Memorandum regarding RT-130 fire shelter deployment exercise for Covid-19 mitigation. Document - “FMB_Memo_Covid_19”

6. Instructor Guide:



INSTRUCTOR GUIDE



Expectations

Instructors should facilitate a quality refresher program 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.

Requirements for Attending Wildland Fire Safety Training Annual Refresher

Please refer to the Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide (PMS 310-1) at <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/310-1> for positions that require Wildland Fire Safety Training Annual Refresher Training.

Instructor Qualifications and Responsibilities

- Lead instructor must be a qualified single resource boss.
- Unit instructors must be qualified firefighters type 1 (FFT1).
- Adjunct instructors may be utilized to provide limited instruction in specialized knowledge and skills at the discretion of the lead instructor.
- Lead instructor is responsible for identifying necessary equipment, materials and supplies.
- Student guides will no longer be provided unless the module requires one. Instructor Guides with discussion points will be provided.
- Refer to the Field Managers Course Guide (PMS 901-1) <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/901-1> for more information.

Tips for Developing Your Program

- Follow the guidance for Annual Fireline Safety Refresher Training in the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations (Red Book) or your agency equivalent. https://www.nifc.gov/policies/pol_ref_redbook.html
- Select relevant modules from the WFSTAR website to build your program.
- Download or stream selected modules.
- As an option, include any relevant local unit information and updates with your presentation.

Documentation

Be sure to fully document who attended, the instructor names, what was covered, and when, and where the training took place. Each participant's training records must be updated, which means course completion memos must be sent to appropriate training officers. A WFSTAR sign in sheet to document this information has been provided https://www.nifc.gov/wfstar/downloads/documentation_sheet.doc. Please encourage students to utilize the QR code on the sign in sheet to provide feedback and recommendations.

