**2025 Mid-Atlantic Wildland Fire Academy Course Descriptions**

These courses are subject to cancellation due to insufficient enrollment and/or instructor availability. Registered students will be notified of changes immediately.

CO - Commuter Option | BP - Bundled Package

**A-219 Helicopter Transport of External Loads**

\*Held at Coyle Airfield, Barnegat, NJ

Cost: $115.00  
Instructor: John Wimberg

**Description:** The purpose of this course is to provide participants with the technical training and procedures needed to perform helicopter external load operations. Students will receive classroom and field training, and will be required to demonstrate the proper procedures to safely conduct helicopter external load operations.

## Prerequisite Qualifications and Training

Prior to requesting enrollment in A-219, prospective students must complete the following pre-requisites:

1. A – 100 Basic Aviation Safety Training – required currency is every 3 years

2. A – 110 Aviation Transportation of Hazardous Materials – required currency is every 3 years

3. A – 200 Accident (Mishap) Review – required currency is every 3 years

4. A – 116 General Awareness Security Training – once

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# S-271, Helicopter Crewmember, 2010 (NWCG Instructor-Led Training Materials)

\*Held at Coyle Airfield, Barnegat, NJ

Cost: $215.00  
Instructor: John Wimberg

**Description:** This is a combined classroom/field course designed to provide student proficiency in all areas of the tactical and logistical use of helicopters to achieve efficiency and standardization. Topics include aviation safety, aircraft capabilities and limitations, aviation life support equipment, aviation mishap reporting, pre-flight checklist and briefing/debriefing, aviation transportation of hazardous materials, crash survival, helicopter operations, helicopter field exercise. Refer to the Interagency Aviation Training (IAT) Guide for IAT A-course equivalencies: <https://www.iat.gov/>.

## Objectives: Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to demonstrate proficiency in all identified areas of helicopter use to safely achieve efficiency and standardization.

## Target Group: Personnel desiring to be qualified as a Helicopter Crewmember ([HECM](https://www.nwcg.gov/positions/hecm)).

## Prerequisite Qualifications and Training

* Fire personnel: Qualified as a Firefighter Type 2 ([FFT2](https://www.nwcg.gov/positions/fft2)).
* Non-fire personnel: None.

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# FI-210, Wildland Fire Origin and Cause Determination, 2016 (NWCG Instructor-Led Training Materials)

Cost: CO - $400.00 | BP - $765.00  
Instructor: Jake Novitsky

## Description: The primary purpose of this course is to provide a consistent knowledge and skill base for the Wildland Fire Investigator ([INVF](https://www.nwcg.gov/positions/invf)). The concepts taught in this course will help an [INVF](https://www.nwcg.gov/positions/invf) perform at an acceptable level on a national basis without regard to geographic boundaries. The course is presented by lectures, electronic presentations, field exercises, and class discussion.

## Objectives:

* Perform the common roles and responsibilities of an [INVF](https://www.nwcg.gov/positions/invf) involved in an initial investigation environment.
* Practice wildland fire investigation methods, evidence collection and documentation processes in a realistic environment.
* Identify the laws, regulations and related court procedures associated with administrative, civil and criminal litigation processes.
* Describe the fundamentals of investigation.
* Know the elements of professional code of ethics.

## Target Group: Recommended training for experienced fire personnel and law enforcement officers with wildland fire investigation responsibilities.

## Prerequisite Qualifications and Training

* Recommend students have law enforcement or firefighter experience. An interactive, self-paced pre-course work will familiarize students with the background information necessary to successfully complete the course.
* Satisfactory completion of pre-selection assessment.
* Satisfactory completion of pre-course work.

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# L-280, Followership to Leadership, 2008 (NWCG Instructor-Led Training Materials)

Cost: CO - $200.00 | BP - $340.00  
Instructor: Jeremy Waite

**Description:** This training course is designed as a self-assessment opportunity for individuals preparing to step into a leadership role. The course combines one day of classroom instruction followed by a second day in the field with students working through a series of problem solving events in small teams (Field Leadership Assessment Course). Topics include leadership values and principles, transition challenges for new leaders, situational leadership, team cohesion factors, ethical decision-making, and after action review techniques. Some course delivery may be arduous in nature.

**Objectives**

* Students will demonstrate an understanding of fundamental leadership principles.
* Students will assess their individual traits and motivation for entering into a leadership role.

**Target Group:** Personnel desiring to be qualified as a single resource boss.

**Prerequisite Qualifications and Training**

* Experience on incident assignments in operations or support functions.
* Successful completion of L-180, Human Factors in the Wildland Fire Service.
* Satisfactory completion of pre-course work.

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**L-380, Fireline Leadership**

Cost: CO - $500.00 | BP - $785.00  
Instructor: Frank Norbury

## Description: This is a leadership development training recommendation for unit supervisors. The training is designed to provide at least 50% of the delivery time as exercises and simulations. Some of the field exercises may be arduous in nature.

**L-380 is targeted at leaders whose decisions have immediate consequences in dynamic, high-risk environments.**

## Objectives: The intent of this training recommendation is to provide unit supervisors with the tools to build and maintain effective and cohesive crews/teams.

## Target Group: Personnel desiring to be qualified as single resource boss.

## Prerequisite Qualifications and Training

* Incident personnel with supervisory responsibilities.
* Successful completion of [**L-180**](https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/training-courses/l-180), Human Factors in the Wildland Fire Service.
* Satisfactory completion of pre-course work.

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# S-244, Field Observer, 2007 (NWCG Instructor-Led Training Materials)

Cost: CO - $285.00 | BP - $485.00  
Instructor: Rich DePrima

## Description: This course provides students with the skills necessary to perform as a Field Observer ([FOBS](https://www.nwcg.gov/positions/fobs)) and/or a Fire Effects Monitor ([FEMO](https://www.nwcg.gov/positions/femo)). Topics include roles and responsibilities of the [FOBS](https://www.nwcg.gov/positions/fobs) and [FEMO](https://www.nwcg.gov/positions/femo); how to make observations and document those observations; how to produce hand drawn and GPS field maps; and how to navigate using a compass and GPS. The navigation unit has 4½ hours of field exercises and the final field exercise is 8 hours. For pre-course work, students need to read and complete exercises in Basic Land Navigation, [PMS 475](https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/475).

## Objectives: Demonstrate skills and knowledge to gather and report information for incident planning.

## Target Group: Personnel desiring to be qualified as Field Observer ([FOBS](https://www.nwcg.gov/positions/fobs)) and/or Fire Effects Monitor ([FEMO](https://www.nwcg.gov/positions/femo)).

## Prerequisite Qualifications and Training

* Successful completion of [S-290, Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior](https://www.wildlandfirelearningportal.net/course/view.php?id=1931).
* Successful completion of pre-course work.
* Basic understanding of how to use a GPS receiver.
* [FOBS](https://www.nwcg.gov/positions/fobs): Qualified as any single resource boss.

OR

* [FEMO](https://www.nwcg.gov/positions/femo): Qualified as a Firefighter Type 2 ([FFT2](https://www.nwcg.gov/positions/fft2)).

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# RX-310, Introduction To Fire Effects, 2017 (NWCG Instructor-Led Training Materials)

Cost: CO - $350.00 | BP - $630.00  
Instructor: Gabe Calahan

**Description:** This course is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to recognize and communicate the relationships between basic fire regimes and fire effects, the effects of fire treatments on fire effects, and to manipulate fire treatments to achieve desired fire effects. In an effort to maintain the currency and relevancy of the course materials for RX-310, Introduction to Fire Effects the instructional design has been modified to allow instructors to develop materials based on current information, changing technologies, and the needs of the students.

**Objectives**

* Demonstrate an understanding of fire as an ecological process using the concepts of fire regimes and first order fire effects at multiple scales.
* Identify realistic management solutions in an adaptive management framework.
* Communicate effectively with fire and resource professionals based on a common understanding of first order fire effects.
* Demonstrate an understanding of how fire management related resource issues interact.
* Demonstrate an understanding of how to manipulate treatments to achieve desired first order fire effects.

**Target Group:** Fire and resource specialists involved in fire related decision-making. Interdisciplinary team resource advisors or prescribed fire crew member working toward burn boss, or other prescribed fire positions.

**Prerequisite Qualifications and Training**

* Working knowledge of fire behavior.
* Understanding of basic ecological principles.
* Satisfactory completion of pre-course work.

# S-130, Firefighter Training, 2021 (NWCG Instructor-Led Training Materials)

**\*Includes Field Day**

Cost: CO - $350.00 | BP - $635.00  
Instructor: Chip Broadwater

**Course Description:** The intent of this course is to train new firefighters in basic Firefighting skills.  This includes a required field exercise that may be arduous in nature.

**Objectives**

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

* Describe the purpose of the Standard Firefighting Orders and Watch Out Situations.
* Describe what the Lookouts, Communications, Escape Routes, and Safety Zones (LCES) system is and how it relates to the Standard Firefighting Orders.
* Describe the various communication methods and tools used for collecting, producing, and distributing information.
* Describe the standards, tools and equipment, and various methods used in fireline construction.​
* Describe the methods for extinguishing a fire with or without the use of water.​
* Demonstrate the ability to construct fireline to required standards using various methods, tools and equipment, and techniques. ​

**Target Group:** Personnel desiring to be qualified as entry-level firefighters and support personnel.

*NOTE:  Be sure to check agency-specific guidelines; some agencies may have different requirements.*

**Prerequisite Qualifications and Training**

* Successful completion of [S-190](https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/training-courses/s-190), Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior at: [S-190 Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior | NWCG](https://www.wildlandfirelearningportal.net/course/view.php?id=1927) (proceed to NWCG Wildland Fire Training Portal - create an account / log-in and search for S-190 online course).
* Successful completion of L-180, Human Factors on the Fireline at: [L-180 (Online) 2014 v2 | Wildland Fire Learning Portal](https://www.wildlandfirelearningportal.net/enrol/index.php?id=1810) (proceed to NWCG Wildland Fire Training Portal - create an account / log-in and search for L-180 online course).

**Special Instructions:**  The class will include an all-day field exercise where students will receive hands-on training with basic wildland firefighting organization, tools and equipment. Students will need to come dressed and prepared to work in the woods in hot and/or rainy conditions. Basic PPE equipment (hardhats, eye/ear protection will be provided). **Students will need to bring rain gear, leather work gloves and lace up boots in good shape that provide good traction and ankle support.**

# S-130, Firefighter Training-FIELD DAY ONLY, 2021 (NWCG Field Day Only for self-study students)

Cost: CO - $130.00 | BP - $190.00  
Instructor: Chip Broadwater

NOTE: This class is not needed if taking the S-130 Instructor Led Class above.

**Course Description:** The “field day only” class is being offered for students who have previously completed the online classroom portion of the course. The class is an all-day field exercise where students will receive hands-on training with basic wildland firefighting organization, tools and equipment. Students will need to come dressed and prepared to work in the woods in hot and/or rainy conditions. Basic PPE equipment (hardhats, eye/ear protection will be provided). **Students will need to bring rain gear, leather work gloves and lace up boots in good shape that provide good traction and ankle support.**

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**S-211 Portable Pumps and Water Use**

**Option A**

Cost: CO - $250.00 | BP - $470.00  
Instructor: Chad Northcraft

**Option B**

Cost: CO - $270.00 | BP - $470.00  
Instructor: Chad Northcraft

**Course Description:** This course is designed to provide knowledge and skills to design, setup, operate, troubleshoot, and shut down portable water delivery systems. The focus is on portable pumps – it does not address water delivery for engines. Topics covered include: portable water delivery systems; equipment; roles and responsibilities; and system design and hydraulics. There is also a field exercise where students will apply what they learned in the classroom.

**Objectives:** Demonstrate knowledge and skills to design, set up, operate, troubleshoot, and shut down portable water delivery systems.

**Target Group:** Personnel desiring to be qualified as Firefighter Type 1 ([FFT1](https://www.nwcg.gov/positions/fft1)) or Incident Commander Type 5 ([ICT5](https://www.nwcg.gov/positions/ict5)), or those wanting to learn more about portable pumps and water use.

**Prerequisite Qualifications and Training:** None.

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# S-212, Wildland Fire Chainsaws, 2012 (NWCG Instructor-Led Training Materials)

Cost: CO - $350.00 | BP - $635.00  
Instructor: Aaron Cook

## Description: This is an instructor-led course intended to be presented at the local level. The course lessons provide introduction to the function, maintenance and use of internal combustion engine powered chainsaws, and their tactical wildland fire application. Field exercises support entry level training for firefighters with little or no previous experience in operating a chainsaw, providing hands-on cutting experience in surroundings similar to fireline situations.

## Objectives

* Define and apply chainsaw safety standards as required by OSHA and agency handbooks, manuals, directives, and owner’s manuals.
* Identify and demonstrate basic chainsaw operation, troubleshooting, maintenance, and safety features.
* Demonstrate the tactical application of chainsaws in fireline construction and mop up operations.

## Target Group: Individuals desiring to be qualified as Basic Faller ([FAL3](https://www.nwcg.gov/positions/fal3)), Firefighter Type 1 ([FFT1](https://www.nwcg.gov/positions/fft1)), Incident Commander Type 5 ([ICT5](https://www.nwcg.gov/positions/ict5)), or Felling Boss, Single Resource ([FELB](https://www.nwcg.gov/positions/felb)).

## Prerequisite Qualifications and Training: Satisfactory completion of pre-course work.

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# S-215, Fire Operations in the Wildland Urban Interface, 2013 (NWCG Instructor-Led Training Materials)

Cost: CO - $270.00 | BP - $470.00  
Instructor: Jeremy Waite

## Description: This is an instructor-led course intended to be presented at the local level. Instructional units include firefighter safety in the interface, managing human factors in the interface, pre-incident planning, sizeup and initial strategy, structure triage, structure protection overview, tactics in the interface, tactical operations and resource use in the interface, action assessment, plan update, and after-action review.

## Objectives: Operate safely and effectively in a wildland urban interface incident by using situation awareness, performing structure triage, using pre-planning tools, having a basic understanding of fire behavior, and using strategy and tactics unique to the wildland urban interface environment.

## Target Group: Designed to assist any emergency responders who will be planning for and making operational decisions during an interface incident. This course is for personnel desiring to be qualified as Incident Commander Type 4 ([ICT4](https://www.nwcg.gov/positions/ict4)), Task Force Leader ([TFLD](https://www.nwcg.gov/positions/tfld)), or any Strike Team Leader.

## Prerequisite Qualifications and Training: Qualified as a Firefighter Type 1 ([FFT1](https://www.nwcg.gov/positions/fft1)).

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**S-219, Firing Operations, 2014 (NWCG Instructor-Led Training Materials)**

Cost: CO - $200.00 | BP - $360.00  
Instructor: Tom Shuman

**Description:** This course introduces the roles and responsibilities of a Firing Boss, Single Resource ([FIRB](https://www.nwcg.gov/positions/firb)), and outlines duties of other personnel who may engage firing operations. The course discusses and illustrates common firing devices, techniques and field demonstrations.

**Objectives**

* Identify the roles and responsibilities of the [FIRB](https://www.nwcg.gov/positions/firb) for planning, execution, safety, coordination, and evaluation of an ignition operation on a wildland or prescribed fire.
* Describe the characteristics, applications, safety and availability of the various firing devices a [FIRB](https://www.nwcg.gov/positions/firb) has at their disposal.
* Given a wildland or prescribed scenario, prepare a firing plan and briefing that contains desired fire behavior, firing techniques, required resources, coordination, safety and risk management factors, and communication, to meet specific objectives.

**Target Group:** Personnel desiring to be qualified as Firing Boss, single resource ([FIRB](https://www.nwcg.gov/positions/firb)) and Firefighter Type 1 and 2 personnel looking to gain valuable information to conduct or participate in firing operations.

**Prerequisite Qualifications and Training:** Qualified as a firefighter type 2 ([FFT2](https://www.nwcg.gov/positions/fft2)).

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# S-390, Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior Calculations, 2007 (NWCG Instructor-Led Training Materials)

Cost: CO - $350.00 | BP - $630.00  
Instructor: Ryan Sundberg

## Description: This course is designed to introduce fire behavior calculations by manual methods, using nomograms and the [Fireline Handbook Appendix B: Fire Behavior, PMS 410-2](https://fs-prod-nwcg.s3.us-gov-west-1.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/publication/pms410-2-appendixB.pdf). Students gain an understanding of the determinants of fire behavior though studying inputs (weather, slope, fuels, and fuel moisture). Students also learn how to interpret fire behavior outputs, documentation processes, and fire behavior briefing components.

## Objectives

* List the assumptions, limitations, and appropriate uses of fire behavior prediction models.
* Describe how environmental factors and processes affect fire behavior predictions and safety.
* Define and interpret fire behavior prediction model inputs.
* Calculate fire behavior outputs using available fire behavior processors.
* Interpret, communicate, apply, and document wildland fire behavior and weather information.

## Target Group: Personnel desiring to be qualified as Division/Group Supervisor ([DIVS](https://www.nwcg.gov/positions/divs)), Prescribed Fire Burn Boss Type 2 ([RXB2](https://www.nwcg.gov/positions/rxb2)), or Incident Commander Type 3 ([ICT3](https://www.nwcg.gov/positions/ict3)).

## Prerequisite Qualifications and Training

* Intermediate S-290, Wildland Fire Behavior.
* Qualified as any single resource boss.
* Satisfactory completion of pre-selection assessment and pre-course work.

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