



Dear Future Wildland Firefighter:

I am pleased that you have decided to take the first step in training to become a wildland firefighter. You are joining a dedicated group of individuals that work hard to ensure the integrity of our natural areas and the safety of our citizens. Many of you are already doing this as members of volunteer and career fire departments. I hope this training adds useful information to your repertoire.

For years, S-130/S-190 has been the basic training necessary to become a wildland firefighter and was required to participate on most federal and state wildfire suppression and prescribed fire incidents. The training was always conducted in the classroom with limited field experience. Times are changing and it is now possible to do much of the study online.

**These on-line classes can take about 40 hours to complete successfully so getting started early is a good idea.**

To become a qualified wildland firefighter, applicants need to complete classes which are approved by the National Wildfire Coordination Group. These classes have also been endorsed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) of the Department of Homeland Security. The purpose of these classes is to assure a standard level of training for competence and safety. This course of study consists of five online classes (ICS-700, ICS-100, S-130, L-180 and S-190). 100, 700, 180 and 190 can all be completed in their entirety online. S-130 requires an instructor-led field day to fully complete, and it must be led by a recognized instructor.

As you take these course, print off copies of all certificates of completion, or emails of “congratulations, you have successfully completed...”. Some times the system provides those but there is a delay in getting the actual certificate. Verification of completing all four online classes is required to participate in the field day. Prior students report that it does take 30-40 hours to complete the online portion, so plan accordingly.

Field days are scheduled periodically around the state as there is a need. If there is a group of at least ten folks who have completed the online portion and need a field day, we can schedule them for any department or group interested.

Completing these classes and the physical fitness Pack Test (a 3 mile hike with a 45 pound pack, in 45 minutes or less) means that the student will be eligible to receive a “red card” from the Kansas Forest Service. Also note that you can complete the online and field day portions and receive your certificates without taking the fitness test, you will have the certifications, but will not have an actual red card. The fitness test must be re-taken each year to remain current, so if you do not plan to see a fire job right away, it is fine to wait and take the fitness test later.

Online Course Guidance:

[Note: If asked, enable Pop-ups if they are blocked on your computer.]

1. Start by taking the two NIMS Classes, if you have not already had them. If you have certificates or verification of prior NIMS training, you have met this step already.
  - a. Go to <https://training.fema.gov/nims/>
  - b. Click on ICS-100, Introduction to ICS for Operational First Responders (Q462)  
Then click “online course” on the right
  - c. When finished, do the same for ICS-700, Introduction to the national incident command system.
  
2. Set aside enough time to fully complete each module or you will have to redo the entire module again. **Make sure you are connected to a printer.**
  - a. Each course is broken up into various modules with a test at the end of each module.
  - b. Upon completion of a module “Challenge Review” with a passing grade, you should print your Certificate of Completion for the module. Also print your certificate of completion for the course when done. [NOTE – Online-records of completion for the modules and courses do not always seem to show up if you go back later.]
  - c. Feel free to take notes during your courses to review from.  
  
number that you got with your National Fire Academy Account (if you got one) or use your SS number.
  
3. Go to <https://wildlandfirelearningportal.net/>
  - a. The system will require you to set up a user account first. Save your information for future reference. This is where you
  - b. S-190 Takes about 6 hours to complete
    - i. Take S-190 before you take S-130.
    - ii. For the monitoring fire behavior (S-190) the “Look Up, Down, and Around” module use the online form of the Incident Response Pocket Guide <http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/pubs/nfes1077/nfes1077.pdf>
  - c. When completed, go to the same link and take S-130 (online portion) and L-180. You should not need to re-register, just use the account you created above.
  
4. The last module of S-130 (Fire Exercise Day or Performance Day) requires up to 8 hours of field fire exercises.