

# NIFC News

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## New Online Course Teaches Basic Incident Command System

[BOISE] The National Wildfire Coordination Group and the U.S. Fire Administration have jointly developed and implemented a new online course that will enable firefighters, incident responders and other interested parties to learn and understand the basics of the Incident Command System (ICS).

“This is a milestone in our efforts to increase the capacity of rural and volunteer firefighters to respond to wildland fire incidents. These online courses and others to follow increase the options available for structural firefighters to gain qualifications in wildland firefighting.” said Tim Murphy, Deputy Assistant Director of Fire and Aviation with the BLM. I-100 is an effective way for people new to or interested in wildland or structural firefighting to learn how agencies and departments organize responses to incidents. Most learners can complete the self-paced course in just two to three hours. Designed for entry-level firefighters, the course can also benefit fire crew supervisors, non-fire agency employees who want to take on collateral duties in fire suppression, and the news media. The course can also be utilized by commanders when the U.S. military is called upon to assist with firefighting.

“Putting ICS training online will greatly widen the availability of one of the most basic elements of fire training,” said Wendell Welch, distance learning unit leader for Fire Management Training at the National Interagency Fire Center. “This kind of learning resource introduces the next generation of wildland and structural firefighters to the command element of a wildland fire suppression effort.”

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## **On-line ICS Training, page 2.....**

The Incident Command System is the organizational framework that enables responders to efficiently manage all aspects of an emergency response or critical situation. ICS was developed in California in the 1970s by an interagency working group, after a disastrous fire season exposed numerous shortcomings in communication and coordination between various local, state and federal agencies. After it was developed and refined, ICS was adopted nationwide by wildland fire agencies in the late 1970s, and has since become the standard organizational model for all federal emergency responses.

The course, entitled I-100, Introduction to the Incident Command System, is available online at the U.S. Fire Administration's virtual campus (<http://training.fema.gov/>) and at the National Wildfire Coordination Group's training website (<http://training.nwcg.gov/>).

For additional information on NWCG training courses, see the [NWCG Field Manager's Course Guide](#), which is located at [www.nwcg.gov/pms/training/training.htm](http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/training/training.htm).

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