



RX-300 Unit 0: Course Introduction

Summary:

The purpose of RX-300 Prescribed Fire Burn Boss, is to provide students with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to prepare, critically evaluate, and implement a prescribed fire plan for in accordance with the *NWCG Standards for Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation*, PMS 484. The course material is based on the duties and responsibilities of a Prescribed Fire Burn Boss.

Units 1 through 12 focus on prescribed fire planning, and units 13 through 19 focus on prescribed fire implementation. Students must pass the implementation assessment and the final presentation to obtain a certificate.

Incident Position Description (IPD) Alignment

This course aligns with the NWCG IPDs that serve as the single authoritative source for the essential duties and responsibilities of a NWCG incident position. IPDs ensure connection between the position and established operation standards. Each unit in this course will identify the related IPD statement. For more information on IPDs visit, <https://www.nwcg.gov/nwcg-standards-management-cycle>.

Course Objectives:

Students will be able to:

- Prepare a prescribed fire plan in accordance with policy and guidelines.
- Critically review prescribed fire plans and identify the necessary information for prescribed fire implementation.
- Discuss prescribed fire implementation strategies and identify their application in various scenarios.
- Evaluate, revise, and defend a prescribed fire plan that safely meets management objectives.

Pre-course work

Name	Form	Duration
Personal Implementation Plan	DOCX	0.5
<i>NWCG Standards for Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation</i> , PMS 484	https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/484 , PDF	1
<i>Prescribed Fire Complexity Rating System Guide</i> , PMS 424,	https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/424 , PDF	0.5

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Name	Form	Duration
Completed prescribed fire plan from home unit	DOCX	0.5
Understanding and Selecting Fire Behavior Fuel Models	WFLP training	3 to 4*
BehavePlus 6.0 Surface Fire	WFLP training	4 to 5*
BehavePlus 6.0 Prescribed Fire	WFLP training	3 to 4
BehavePlus 6.0 Crown Fire	WFLP training	1 to 2*
IFTDSS Overview	WFLP training	3 to 4
How to Use IFTDSS for Burn Plans	WFLP training	4 to 5
Total Pre-course Work Duration		12 to 15 hours* 20 to 26 hours

* = training is required in the new S-390. Students who have recently taken S-390 will have already completed this training.

Course at a Glance:

Units	Method	Duration
Unit 0: Course Introduction	Presentation	1 hour
Unit 1: Policies and Guidelines	Presentation	1 hour
Unit 2: Risk Management	Presentation	1 hour
Unit 3: Complexity Analysis	Exercise	2.5 hours
Unit 4: Goals, Objectives, and Side-boards	Presentation	2 hours
Unit 5: Prescribed Fire Plan Evaluation	Exercise	0.5 hour
Unit 6: Describe and Map the Prescribed Fire Area	Presentation	1 hour

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Units	Method	Duration
Unit 7: Prescription Development and Scheduling	Presentation	2.5 hours
Unit 8: Smoke Planning and Implementation	Presentation	1 hour
Unit 9: Planning for Holding and Contingency	Presentation	2 hours
Unit 10: Liability	Presentation	2.5 hours
Unit 11: Planning for Unexpected Events	Panel Discussion	1 hour
Unit 12: Completion, Approvals and Documentations	Presentation	1.5 hours
Unit 13: Operational Leadership in Prescribed Fire	Presentation	0.5 hours
Unit 14: Pre-burn Considerations and Go/No-Go	Presentation	2 hours
Unit 15: Meeting Objectives with Prescribed Fire	Presentation	1 hour
Unit 16: Prescribed Fire Implementation	Exercise and Assessment	4.5 hours
Unit 17: Local Considerations	Presentation	1 hour
Unit 18: Monitoring	Presentation	1 hour
Unit 19: Contingency Operations and Wildfire Declaration	Presentation	2 hours
Unit 20: Final Preparation and Presentation	Student Presentation	5.5 hours
Q&A and Debrief	Class Discussion	3 hours
Total Course Duration		40 hours

Unit 0: Course Introduction

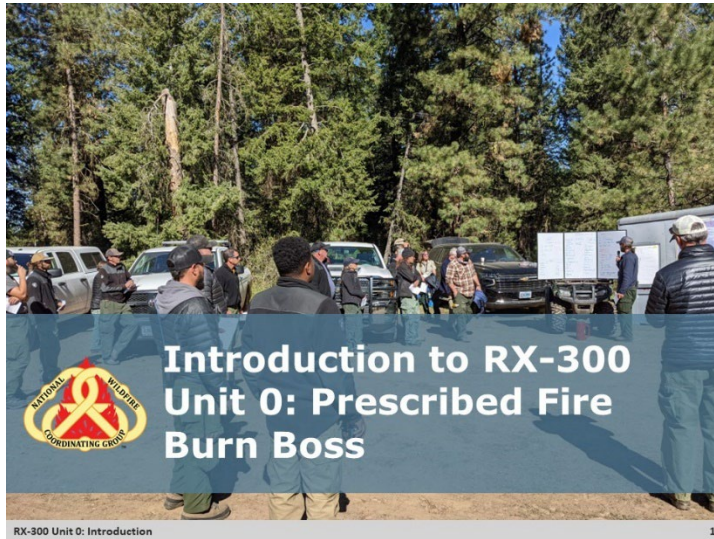
Resources:

- ☐ Experience questionnaire to balance modeling knowledge between groups.
- ☐ Have students fill out the questionnaire during Unit 0.
- ☐ Have students move before lunch in preparation for their first breakout into modules after lunch.

Materials:

- ☐ Agenda
- ☐ Incident Position Standards
- ☐ RX documents:
 - <https://www.nwcg.gov/positions/rxb2/position-ref-mat-job-aids>
- ☐ Instructor Guides for each unit
- ☐ Recommended resources
- ☐ Daily reflections and discussion posts
- ☐ Daily surveys
- ☐ Final project information and submission location
- ☐ Final survey
- ☐ Certificates
 - Contingent on passing scores and discussion and survey participation

Slide 1



Slide 2



Time estimate – 15 minutes

Outline

- ☐ Introduce cadre and students.
 - Cadre
 - Job title and location.
- ☐ Ask about relevant NWCG qualifications.
- ☐ What do you want students to get out of the course?
 - Students
 - Job title and location.
 - What are you most looking forward to learning?

Slide 3

Summary of Changes

- Duties and Responsibilities
 - Emphasis on planning
- Incident Position Standards
- Pework
 - Closing the gap in fire modeling
- Course material
 - More planning less implementation
 - Instructor Guide
- Taskbook

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Time estimate – 5 minutes

Outline

Duties and Responsibilities

- Revised to better reflect the current duties and responsibilities of a burn boss.
- Incident Position Standards
- Outlines how each position will perform each duty and responsibility.
- Serve as a reference as you perform as a burn boss.
- Dynamic and updated regularly based on the expectations of a burn boss.

Pework

- There is a knowledge gap in fire modeling. The prework is intended to close the knowledge gap between S-390, Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior Calculations, 2007 and RX-341, Prescribed Fire Plan Preparation, 2009 so that students can implement modeling in this class.

Course material

- More focus on planning rather than implementation. Implementation is reviewed and resources provided with the intent that you learn implementation while in the field working on the taskbook.
- The Instructor Guide has notes and associated PowerPoint slides. These will also serve as a reference for students after the class.

Taskbook

- The taskbooks will be based on the revised duties and responsibilities.

Slide 4

Course Objectives



**Raise hand
icon invites
you to
respond.**

- Prepare a prescribed fire plan in accordance with policy and guidelines.
- Critically review prescribed fire plans and identify the necessary information for prescribed fire implementation.
- Discuss prescribed fire implementation strategies and identify their application in various scenarios.
- Evaluate, revise and defend a prescribed fire plan that safely meets management objectives.

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Time estimate – 2 minutes

Outline

- RX-300 course materials are intended to maximize engagement. The raise hand icon on the slide invites students to respond.
- Allow students time to read objectives on their own. Refrain from reading the objectives verbatim off the slide.

Question:

- ☐ What types of information are in a prescribed fire plan?
- ☐ What is some of the necessary information you might identify when reviewing a prescribed fire plan?
- ☐ Can you identify any prescribed fire implementation strategies?
- ☐ What are some ways to ensure safety in a prescribed fire plan?

Slide 5

Pre-Course Work



Direct application of modeling

- Describe and map the prescribed fire area.
- Prescription development and scheduling.
- Planning for holding and contingency.
- Final project.

What skills did you build in the pre-course work and how will you apply them?



Time estimate – 2 minutes

Outline

- Prework will be directly applied to these elements of the class.
- Cadre will now be able to help you apply the tools rather than learn how to find the buttons.

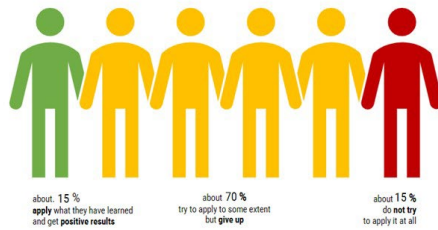
Discuss

- ☐ What skills did you build in the pre-course work and how will you apply them?

Slide 6

Personal Implementation Plan

Purpose: Maximize the application of course material



WHAT are your supervisor's expectations?

WHEN and **HOW** will you apply material?

WHEN and **HOW** will you complete your RXB2?

WHO are your supporting peers and mentors?

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Time estimate – 5 minutes

Outline

- A small percentage of training leads to positive change – Source: Weinbauer-Heidel, Ina, and Masha Ibeschitz-Manderbach. What Makes Training Really Work: 12 Levers Of Transfer Effectiveness. tredition, 2018.
- The purpose of the personal implementation plan is to increase the likelihood that you will apply the training.

Discuss

- ☐ WHAT are your supervisor's expectations?
- ☐ WHEN and HOW will you apply material?
- ☐ WHEN and HOW will you complete your RXB2?
- ☐ WHO are your supporting peers and mentors?

Slide 7

Expectation

What we expect from you

- Respectful
- Attentive
- Curious
- Hardworking – this class will be hard, growth does not come without some pain (just like PT)

What you can expect from us

- Respectful
- Helpful
- Honest
- Fun – we will try and make this class as enjoyable as possible

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Time estimate – 2 minutes

Outline

- ☐ Review expectations.
- When you have a positive experience learning about being a burn boss, you are more likely to seek out opportunities to apply what you have learned.

Slide 8

Materials

- ☐ Agenda
- ☐ Incident Position Standards
- ☐ RX documents (PMS 484, 424, 485, 420, 153)
- ☐ Instructor Guides for each unit
- ☐ Recommended resources
- ☐ Daily reflections and discussion posts
- ☐ Daily surveys
- ☐ Final project information and submission location
- ☐ Final survey
- ☐ Certificates
 - Contingent on passing scores and discussion and survey participation

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Time estimate – 10 minutes

Outline

- ☐ Review

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Slide 9



End State

Implementation

- Day 4 - Assessment with questions related to a prescribed fire scenario.
- 70% or greater required.

Planning

- Day 5 – Presentation showing updates and justifications to elements of a prescribed fire plan.
- Satisfactory performance required.

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Time estimate – 15 minutes

Outline

- ☐ Implementation – Assessment with questions related to a prescribed fire scenario.
 - Several units prior to this assessment will prepare you.
 - The assessment will ask questions about information in *NWCG Standards for Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation*, PMS 484, <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/484>, the incident position standards, and a prescribed fire scenario from the implementation exercise.
- ☐ Planning – Presentation showing updated and justification of elements of a prescribed fire plan.
 - Most units will provide time and guidance to work on specific elements of your final.
 - The focus will be to align the plan with policies and best practices and present selections of the plan as if presenting to an authorizing agent.
 - Refer to the directions and to the example presentation.
 - Play video and review the final project overview.

Direction for coaches

- ☐ Check in with each student to ensure they have a prescribed fire plan and, ideally, an associated landscape-scale document. If they do not have this documentation, take one of the following steps:
 - Have them contact their supervisor to obtain the documentation.
 - See if there is a student in another module that works in a similar area.
 - Have a cadre member provide the documentation from their area.