

## **CHAPTER 10 INTRODUCTION**

**10 – OBJECTIVES.** Adhere to National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) qualifications and certification requirements in fire management to ensure Fire Contractors have the organization, training, and qualifications to carry out fire management contracts and programs in a safe manner.

Ensure that NWCG requirements are understood and implemented by National Wildfire Suppression Association (NWSA) certified instructors.

Maintain the integrity of the National Wildfire Suppression Association through the association's Code of Ethics and the instructor's Code of Ethics.

**11 – POLICY.** NWSA members will: Comply with the qualification requirements for the skills and knowledge unique to fire and aviation management and the Incident Command System (ICS) as established by the *NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire Position Qualifications*, PMS 310-1. Comply with any additional Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) requirements as set forth by NWCG geographical areas, for further training and qualification requirements. Comply with the directions in the Instructor's Guide for the course being taught.

Each person trained will meet the physical fitness requirements, be evaluated, and certified for each ICS or skill position before an Incident Qualification Card (Red Card) is issued.

Each Lead Instructor, Unit Instructor, and Adjunct Instructor will be reviewed, qualified, and certified by the NWSA Training Certification Coordinator. Lead and Unit will meet the currency requirements. *NWCG Standards for Course Delivery* can be found in PMS 901-1. The Field Managers Course Guide was deleted in October 2019.

**12 – RESPONSIBILITY OF NWSA INSTRUCTORS.** Maintaining high standards, providing quality training, and keeping the database current is the responsibility of all instructors in the association. Courses will be entered into the database within 72 hours after the course has been completed.

The NWSA Training Coordinator, Office staff, and the Board of Directors are there to support all members of the association.

**13 – DEFINITIONS.** For additional definitions of terms related to ICS, refer to the NWCG Glossary of Wildland Fire. PMS 205. The following information can be found in the NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire Position Qualifications, PMS 310-1.

Certification and Recertification: Certification indicates the individual is qualified to perform in a specific position. Each company owner or official is responsible for annually certifying the qualifications of their personnel based upon the requirements in the PMS 310-1 and their Geographical Area Coordinating Group.

Successful completion of position tasks and training courses does not guarantee an individual will be qualified to perform in a position. Certification and recertification are subjective determinations that each company must make, based on task evaluations, position performance, and its judgment on the quality of an individual's experience.

To recertify an FFT2, the individual would be required to take any new training required, RT-130 training, and pass the Work Capacity Test. To recertify an FFT1 and higher, the individual would be required to take any new training required, take the RT-130 course, pass the Work Capacity Test, and complete a new Task Book.

Currency Requirement: For positions identified in the PMS 310-1, the maximum time for maintaining currency is 3 years for air operations, faller, and dispatch positions. All other positions have a 5-year term. Currency for a position can be maintained by successful performance in positions identified in the PMS 310-1.

Certifying Official: In the private sector, the Certifying Official is the Company Owner or his designated representative. The Certifying Official must review and confirm the completion of the PTB and decide on company certification. This determination should be based on the Trainee's demonstration of position competencies and behaviors, as well as the completed PTB, which includes a Final Evaluator's Verification. Only the Certifying Official from the company has the authority to certify an individual's qualifications.

Evaluator: The Evaluator is the person who observes the task(s) being performed and documents successful performance in the PTB. The Evaluator and the Coach may be the same person; however, the functions of coaching and evaluating must remain separate.

Final Evaluator: A Final Evaluator must be qualified in the position they are evaluating. Only the evaluator on the final position performance assignment (the assignment in which all remaining tasks have been evaluated and initialed) will complete the Final Evaluator's statement inside the front cover of the PTB recommending certification.

Experience: Documented, satisfactory performance in specified ICS positions that are needed to qualify for another position; in the case of a trainee, satisfactory performance in the position for which the individual is qualified.

Other Positions Meeting Currency Requirements: Positions in another function, or at an equivalent or lower level in the same function, that meet the currency requirements for the position under which they are listed.

Qualified Individual: An individual whose company has documented that the individual has completed all requirements for training, experience, and physical fitness for a specific ICS position.

Satisfactory Performance: Performance by an individual that meets or exceeds the written standards for a specific ICS position as evaluated by the individual's incident or agency supervisor.

Skill Position: A position that requires specific skills and knowledge to perform on a wildland fire incident. Examples include Firefighter, Fire Behavior Analyst, Single Resource Boss, Prescribed Fire Burn Boss, or Ignition Specialist.

Trainee or Student: A company-approved individual who is preparing to qualify for a position through completion of training courses and on-the-job training. Also, a person who is attempting to demonstrate task evaluation or position performance of required job tasks under the direct supervision of an evaluator who is qualified in the position.

Coach: A qualified individual who provides instruction to a trainee in the classroom, on the job, or in an incident. While many of the requirements of the Coach are like those of an Evaluator, the roles of coaching and evaluation must remain separate. Responsibilities are listed in the PMS 310-1.

Training Specialist: A person who identifies incident evaluation opportunities for trainees and ensures that the assignment is properly documented. On initial attack and extended attack incidents, the Training Specialist's duties would be performed by unit personnel.

**14 – REFERENCES.** For additional directions and information, consult the following references:

1. Wildland Fire Incident Management Field Guide, PMS 210.
2. Incident Response Pocket Guide, PMS 461
3. Fitness and Work Capacity, Second Edition, PMS 304-2
4. Leading in the Wildland Fire Service, PMS 494-2
5. NWCG Publications Catalog Part 2, PMS 449-2 (Note this publication is revised annually and usually is available in April)
6. NWCG Publication Management System,  
website: [www.nwcg.gov/pms/pubs/pubs.htm](http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/pubs/pubs.htm)
7. National Wildfire Coordinating Group, website: [www.nwcg.gov](http://www.nwcg.gov)
8. National Interagency Fire Center, website: [www.nifc.gov](http://www.nifc.gov)
9. Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations, NFES 2724, USDA, and USDI, National Interagency Fire Center, Boise, ID.
10. SAFENET, website: [www.safenet.nifc.gov](http://www.safenet.nifc.gov)
11. Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center, website: [www.wildfirelessons.net](http://www.wildfirelessons.net)
12. Annual Refresher Training Reference, website: [www.nifc.gov/wfstar/index.htm](http://www.nifc.gov/wfstar/index.htm)
13. National Wildfire Suppression Association, website: [www.nwsa.us](http://www.nwsa.us)