



Pennsylvania State Fire Academy

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Minimum Standard for Accreditation (MSA)

March, 1998

Course Title: Basic Wildland Firefighter /PA-130 (WBFF)

Length of Course: 16 Hours

Lecture/Lab Breakdown: 9.5/6.5

Prerequisites: None

Referenced Texts: Guide provided by the Bureau of Forestry

Course Goal: To develop basic skills and knowledge needed by entry level wildland firefighters that will enable them to fight wildfires under the supervision of a fire warden or experienced wildland firefighter.

Description of Course: The course emphasizes safety, basic skills and teamwork in preparing individual wildland firefighters to work together as an effective firefighting unit.

Description of Methodology to be used: (Brief): Lecture, demonstration and supervised practice in the use of wildland firefighting tools and coordinated crew techniques.

Student Equipment / Supply Needs: Notebook; pen & pencil; Field exercises require student to wear leather, non-composition, lug sole, 8" top (minimum) boots; leather gloves; non-synthetic long sleeved shirt, non-synthetic, cuffless pants (Nomex is acceptable); non-metallic hard hat with chin strap and eye protection.

Equipment/Audiovisual/Supply requirements: Overhead projector, wildland firefighting hand tools, student manuals (Supplied by Bureau of Forestry), pencils and copies of tests. (Master copies of test materials are appended in the Instructor's Guide)

Special Note: . This course will be taught to the curriculum for PA-130 as specified by the Bureau of Forestry. Instructors for this course will be accredited to teach the subject by both the Bureau of Forestry and the PA State Fire Academy. Course offerings and instructor cadre must be approved in advance by the local District Forester. (Copy of map and District Office listings attached). Minimum of 2-3 instructors required. Maximum 40 students /class unless waived by the District Forester.

continued

COURSE OUTLINE

<u>Time</u>	<u>Content</u>	<u>Instructor Notes</u>
3:00	Safety & ICS	
3:00	Fire Behavior	
4:00	Tools & Tactics	
6:00	Crew Field Exercise	

Competency Evaluation Mechanism (Brief description - Attach copy): Written tests are required for Units I, III & IV and VI (A score of 70% or higher required to pass each individual test). Individual skills checks are administered by instructors during field exercises. Individual must wear and carry required field gear to successfully complete course.

Course Objectives (Specific):

1. Understand basic ICS structure and demonstrate the willingness and ability to function as an individual member of a wildland firefighting crew.
2. Understand the key elements of wildland fire behavior.
3. Demonstrate the safe and proper use of hand tools in fireline construction.
4. Know and describe the 10 Standard Fire Orders and Situations that shout “Watch Out”.
5. Describe and demonstrate the prescribed safety actions and attitudes when working around heavy equipment and aircraft on the fireline.