



## S-131 Course Introduction

### Summary:

This course is designed to meet the training needs of a Firefighter Type 1 (FFT1), <https://www.nwcg.gov/positions/fft1>, and an Incident Commander Type 5 (ICT5), <https://www.nwcg.gov/positions/ict5>, as outlined in the Incident Position Description (IPD), the *NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire Position Qualification*, PMS 310-1, <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/310-1>, and the position task book developed for the positions.

### Incident Position Description (IPD) Alignment:

The IPDs 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:

At the successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify position responsibilities, and demonstrate the ability to apply principles of Operational Leadership found in the *Incident Response Pocket Guide (IRPG)*, PMS 461, <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/461>.
- Describe how to incorporate and maintain open lines of communication with appropriate personnel and identify documentation responsibilities.
- Identify Look Up, Down and Around indicators, and demonstrate the ability to apply the components of Lookouts, Communications, Escape Routes, and Safety Zones (LCES) as described in the IRPG.
- Demonstrate the ability to apply tactical decision-making procedures.

# Course Introduction

## Units at a Glance:

| Units  | Method                            | Duration           |
|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Course Introduction  | Presentation                      | 30 Minutes         |
| Unit 1: Position Responsibilities and Operational Leadership             | Presentation, video, and exercise | 1 Hour             |
| Unit 2: Communication  | Presentation, video, and exercise | 1 Hour             |
| Unit 3: Lookouts, Communications, Escape Routes, and Safety Zones (LCES) | Presentation and video            | 2 Hours 30 Minutes |
| Unit 4: Look Up, Down, and Around  | Presentation, video, and exercise | 2 Hours 30 Minutes |
| Unit 5: Decision-Making  | Presentation, video, and exercise | 4 Hours            |
| Student Assessment   | Multiple Choice Exam              | 30 Minutes         |
| <b>Total Course Duration</b>   |                                   | <b>12 Hours</b>    |

## Materials:

### For Each Participant

- Incident Response Pocket Guide (IRPG), PMS 461, <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/461>.
- Student Reference 3-1, LCES Original Document by Paul Gleason. This should be made available to students, either as a printed handout or digitally.
- 1 copy of the final exam for each student. Contact your course coordinator or email [blm\\_fa\\_nwcg\\_training@blm.gov](mailto:blm_fa_nwcg_training@blm.gov) for access to the final exam and the final exam answer key.
- Notebooks.

**References to aid instructor preparation and facilitation.** Instructors should have physical copies or access to digital versions.

- *NWCG Fireline Handbook, Appendix B: Fire Behavior*, PMS 410-2, <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/410-2>
  - Leading in the Wildland Fire Service, PMS 494-2, <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/494-2>
  - Design and Delivery of Tactical Decision Games, PMS 468-1, <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/468-1>
  - NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire Position Qualification, PMS 310-1, <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/310-1>.

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- Incident Position Descriptions (IPDs) for FFT1 and ICT5
  - <https://www.nwcg.gov/positions/fft1/position-ipd>
  - <https://www.nwcg.gov/positions/ict5/position-ipd>
- Interagency *Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations* (Red Book), [https://www.nifc.gov/policies/pol\\_ref\\_redbook.html](https://www.nifc.gov/policies/pol_ref_redbook.html)
- *NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire Resource Typing* , PMS 200, <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/200>
- *NWCG Fire Environment Poster* , PMS 439, <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/439>
- *Fire Weather Cloud Chart*, PMS 438, <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/438>
- *NWCG Glossary of Wildland Fire*, PMS 205, <https://www.nwcg.gov/glossary/a-z>
- An Incident Review from an incident where communications played a role. This will be used as an example in a class discussion. A possible source would be the Incident Review Database by the Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center, <http://wildfirelessons.net/irdb>.
- A copy of the final exam key to grade exams. Contact your course coordinator or email [blm\\_fa\\_nwcg\\_training@blm.gov](mailto:blm_fa_nwcg_training@blm.gov) for access to the final exam and the final exam answer key.

## Classroom

- Ability to display images and video on large screen. Several videos will require an active internet connection to play from within the PowerPoint presentation, and PowerPoint must have external content enabled to allow the videos to stream from the internet. If there will not be an internet connection at the point of course delivery, the videos must be downloaded prior to class from <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/training-courses/s-131/course-materials>.
- There are a series of Tactical Decision Exercises in Unit 5. These will require preparation prior to delivery.
  - The students will be broken out into smaller groups for the exercises. There should be a printed copy of the Exercise Evaluation Forms for each group. The forms can be downloaded from the S-131 Course Materials page <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/training-courses/s-131/course-materials>
  - A sand table with props, or print outs of the topographic maps from the Instructor Guide should be available for the exercises, if possible.
  - Cadre may choose to develop alternate scenarios for the Tactical Decision Exercises, based on local conditions. There is a generic evaluation form provided for use in this case.
- White board or easel access for group breakout.
- Example of kit for FFT1 and ICT5

# Course Introduction

## **Guides and Key**

The presentations and instructor guides include notes to aid facilitators in instruction.

### **Key**

- Indicates an action for the instructor to take.
  - Indicates topics and information for the facilitator to use as they see fit.

## Slide 1



## Course Overview

**This course is designed to meet the training needs of a Firefighter Type 1 (FFT1) and an Incident Commander Type 5 (ICT5) as outlined in the *NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire Position Qualifications*, PMS 310-1, and the position task books developed for the positions.**

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- Review the Course Overview
  - *NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire Position Qualifications*, PMS 310-1, <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/310-1>.
  - Position task books for FFT1 and ICT5, <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/position-taskbooks/311-14>.
- Use these instructional Methods:
  - Facilitation and short lectures with PowerPoint presentations.
  - Discussion.
  - Exercises.
- Explain to students that to successfully complete the course and receive a certificate of completion, they must:
  - Participate in all classroom discussions, exercises, and scenarios.
  - Complete all quizzes.
  - Obtain a score of 70% or higher on the final exam.

## Course Objectives

**Students will be able to:**

- **Identify position responsibilities and demonstrate the ability to apply principles of Operational Leadership found in the *Incident Response Pocket Guide (IRPG)*, PMS 461.**
- **Describe how to incorporate and maintain open lines of communication with appropriate personnel and identify documentation responsibilities.**

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Review Course Objectives

- Reference the *Incident Response Pocket Guide (IRPG)*, PMS 461, <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/461>, as needed.

Slide 4

## Course Objectives

**Students will be able to:**

- **Identify Look Up, Down and Around indicators, and demonstrate the ability to apply the components of Lookouts, Communications, Escape Routes, and Safety Zones (LCES) as described in the *IRPG*.**
- **Demonstrate the ability to apply tactical decision-making procedures.**

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Review Course Objectives (Continued)

- IRPG, <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/461>.



Slide 5



**Transition from FFT2 to FFT1**

- **Sharpening communication skills**
- **Making sound tactical decisions**
- **Coordinating with other resources**
- **Being a leader**

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- Emphasize that transitioning from a follower to a leader will require additional skills to perform the job.
- Instructors should discuss their experiences transitioning from Firefighter Type 2 (FFT2) to FFT1.

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## Incident Position Descriptions

- **Incident Position Description (IPD)**
  - Firefighter Type 1 (Squad Boss)  
<https://www.nwcg.gov/positions/fft1>
  - Incident Commander Type 5  
<https://www.nwcg.gov/positions/ict5>
- **Position Task Book**
  - FFT1/ICT5

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The NWCG IPDs serve as the single authoritative source for the essential duties and responsibilities of a NWCG incident position.

- ❑ If the classroom has internet access, show the students the Position Pages for FFT1, <https://www.nwcg.gov/positions/fft1>, and ICT5, <https://www.nwcg.gov/positions/ict5>, from the NWCG website by clicking on the link in the PowerPoint slide.

The Position Task Book (PTB) is the primary tool for observing and evaluating performance.

- In the current performance-based system, trainees must complete the taskings in the PTB to become qualified as an FFT1 and/or ICT5, <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/position-taskbooks/311-14>.
  - The PTB can only be initiated by the home unit, not at this course.
- ❑ Tell students that Unit 1 will cover position responsibilities in more detail.

## Review Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Identify position responsibilities and demonstrate the ability to apply principles of Operational Leadership found in the IRPG.
- Describe how to incorporate and maintain open lines of communication with appropriate personnel and identify documentation responsibilities.

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- IRPG, <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/461>.

## Review Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Identify Look Up, Down and Around indicators, and demonstrate the ability to apply the components of Lookouts, Communications, Escape Routes, and Safety Zones (LCES) as described in the IRPG.
- Demonstrate the ability to apply tactical decision-making procedures.

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- IRPG, <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/461>.