

TECHNICAL FIRE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

General Program Information and Application Guidelines

General Program Information

Course Coordination: Technical Fire Management (TFM) is an interagency program offered by Washington Institute (WI) in cooperation with Humboldt State University. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Training Unit at the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) coordinates BLM participation in this program through WI. The classrooms for all the modules except the final project and the administration staff for WI are in Bothell, Washington, just north of Seattle. Lodging and meals will be off campus. Washington Institute staff will forward more logistical information to accepted students. Students will be on per diem and responsible for providing their own lodging, meals, and transportation.

Course Schedule and Additional Information: The TFM program spans approximately 19 months and includes five two-week modules, a one-week module, and a final project. Students must attend all of the modules. Tentative dates for each module and final project presentations are as follows:

Module I	Math Fundamentals	October 24-28, 2011
Module II	Statistics	November 28-December 9, 2011
Module III	Economics	January 9-20, 2012
Module IV	Fuels and Fire Behavior	February 27-March 9, 2012
Module V	Fire Effects and Ecology	April 30-May 11, 2012
Module VI	Fire and Land Management	October 1-12, 2012
Module VII	Final Project Presentations	April 15-29, 2013

All selectees must have completed S-390, Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior Calculations. The following skills are recommended: technical writing course or the equivalent, basic algebraic manipulation, basic personal computer skills (Windows with Microsoft Office or equivalent), proficiency in the use of the BEHAVE program, and knowledge of the National Environmental Policy Act.

Success in the program requires total commitment from both employees and supervisors. Supervisors are encouraged to provide adequate support to employees involved in the program. The amount of normal duty time allocated to each student for the completion of this program should be determined and agreed upon between the candidate and the supervisor. Any additional time required to complete the program will be on the student's own time. Successful completion of previous final projects alone have required between 250-500 working hours.

The TFM Final Project: The final project is a written report culminating the learning process and is often the most challenging part of the program. The project is accomplished by systematically describing, analyzing and solving a problem written out as a study plan that will be mutually agreed upon by the student, the student's supervisor or fire management officer, and Washington Institute. Once submitted, an interagency panel reviews the written report and then

students orally defend the decision criteria used in the analysis and problem solve before the panel. This project must be completed within the time frames established.

Program Completion: Successful completion of this program will qualify the candidate for 20 of the 24 hours required for the General Biological Science (GS-0401) series. The certificate of completion from Washington Institute will only be issued after completion and presentation of the final project. The student must complete all modules and earn a passing grade.

Participants have the option of buying credits through Humboldt State University at a rate of approximately \$80 per credit for Modules II through VII or \$1,600 for the full program. Module I is a review course and is not accredited through Humboldt State University.

Application Guidelines

All BLM personnel from field and state offices will apply for the program via their own state fire management officer (FMO) by April 15, 2011. All BLM NIFC employees should apply directly to the BLM Fire Training Unit.

State FMOs will gather applications for their area and prioritize applicants. States may develop their own systems of ranking candidates or use the TFM Entrance Examination. States using the examination as a ranking mechanism may request the answer key from the BLM Fire Training Unit at NIFC. States will then forward this information to the BLM Fire Training Unit at NIFC no later than April 29, 2011.

National Interagency Fire Center
BLM Fire Training Unit (FA-324)
Attention: Ted Mason
3833 South Development Avenue
Boise, ID 83705

Application packets should include the following documents in the order listed below.

1. Completed TFM Educational Program Application
2. Completed TFM Completion Agreement
3. Completed responses to the TFM Entrance Examination