

Glossary of Wildland Fire Terminology



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Summary of Changes

Summary of Changes to the Glossary of Wildland Fire Terminology

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National Wildfire Coordinating Group
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Reference Definitions

Some of the terms within this glossary will be followed by initials or will have references or comments at the end of the definition to help broaden the recognition and understanding of the term. An explanation of those references is as follows:

Also called: means there is another term that may sometimes be in use, but is not defined in this glossary.

Acronym: A name made up of the initial letters of a multi-word term or official title. An acronym appears in parentheses following the term.

See: means there is another, preferred term that should be used instead. In such a case only the preferred term is defined in this glossary.

See Also: means there are one or more related terms that may also be of interest to the glossary user. The related terms are also defined in this glossary.

Synonym: means the term is synonymous with another. The terms have the same, or essentially the same, definition and the terms are interchangeable in their use.

- A -

Aerial Torch

Added 1 An ignition device suspended under a helicopter, capable of dispensing ignited fuel to the ground for assistance in burning out or backfiring.

Agency Certification

Added 1 The process whereby the employing agency or contractor documents that the individual is fully qualified to perform duties and responsibilities for a specified position.

Annual Certification

Added 1 Annual review by an employing agency of an individual's position qualifications and documentation certifying that the individual is fully qualified to perform duties and responsibilities for a specified position. Annual certification is based on established performance standards and agency specific requirements.

- B -

Behavior

Added 1 An observable activity or action demonstrated by an individual in a particular context.
see also: Competency

Breakover

Added 1 A fire edge that crosses a control line or natural barrier intended to confine the fire.

Burning Out

Added 1 Setting fire inside a control line to consume fuel located between the edge of the fire and the control line.

- C -

Certifying Official

Added 1 The agency official at the home unit who is responsible for authorizing and granting position certification per agency policy. The agency official is responsible for completing the agency certification block located on the inside front cover of a Position Task Book.

see also: Agency Certification
Home Unit
Position Task Book

Cold Line

Added 1 Fireline that has been controlled. The fire has been mopped up for a safe distance inside the line and can be considered safe to leave unattended.

Competency

Added 1 A broad description that groups core behaviors necessary to perform a specific function.
see also: Behavior

- D -

Discovery

Added 1 Determination that a fire exists. Location and reporting of a fire is not required as is with detection.
see also: Detection

- E -

Evaluator

Added 1 The individual who is qualified in the position being evaluated, or supervises the position being evaluated, having responsibility for observing task(s) being performed and documenting successful performance for agency certification or re-certification. Evaluator responsibilities must remain separate from the individual assigned as Trainer/Coach.
see also: Agency Certification
Re-Certification
Trainer/Coach

Exhaust Primer

Changed 1 Device which uses the exhaust gas flow of an engine for priming a centrifugal pump.

- F -

Final Evaluator

Added 1 The individual responsible for completing the position task book's verification statement once all tasks in the position task book have been completed and signed off. Only the evaluator on the final position performance assignment (the assignment in which all remaining tasks have been evaluated and signed off) will complete the verification statement recommending certification.
see also: Position Performance Assignment
Position Task Book

Firing Out

Added 1 The act of setting fire to unburned fuels located between the control line and main fire in burning out operations.

Flanking Action

Added
see: Flanking Fire Suppression

Friction Loss

Changed 1 Pressure loss caused by the movement of water or solution against the interior surface of fire hose, pipe, or fittings; normally measured in pressure loss per length of hose or pipe.

- G -

Geographic Information System Specialist (GISS)

Added 1 The incident support position responsible for collecting and maintaining geospatial data and providing geospatial analysis and producing products (maps, etc.) in support of wildland fire incident planning. GISS is utilized in support of incident management, assigned to an ICS organization's Situation Unit.

Gross Axle Weight Rating (GAWR)

Added 1 The value specified by the manufacturer as the maximum allowable weight placed on an axle of a vehicle when fully equipped, including payload, fluids and occupants.

Gross Vehicle Axle Weight Rating (GAWR)

Deleted 1 The value specified by the manufacturer as the maximum allowable weight placed on an axle of a vehicle when fully equipped, including payload, fluids and occupants.

- H -**Head Pressure**

Changed 1 Pressure due to elevation of water. Equals 0.433 pounds per square inch (PSI) per foot of elevation. (Approximately 0.5 PSI is required to lift water 1 foot in elevation)

Heat Trough

Changed 1 A Heat Low which is elongated in shape. Also called: Heat Low; Thermal Low; Thermal Trough.

Higbee Cut

Changed 1 Removal of the first (i.e., outside) thread of a female or male coupling to prevent crossing or mutilation of threads. Dimpled rocker lug on female coupling indicates beginning of Higbee Cut.

Home Unit

Added 1 The designated agency or entity providing contracted resources that employs the individual who is actively pursuing a position performance assignment (completion of a position task book).
see also: Position Performance Assignment
Position Task Book

Hose Thread

Added 1 The specific dimensions of screw thread employed to coupled fire hose and equipment. American National Standards (NH) have been adopted for fire hose couplings threads in 3/4, 1-1/2, 2-1/2, 3-1/2, 4, 5, and 6-inch sizes.

Human Resource Specialist (HRSP)

Added 1 An individual having responsibility for assisting incident personnel and agency administrators with human resource, civil rights, and inappropriate behavior concerns. HRSP solicits involvement from the appropriate incident authorities in order to resolve human resource, civil rights, and inappropriate behavior issues informally, quickly, legally, and at the lowest impacted level.

- L -**Learning Objective**

Added 1 A description of the intended outcome of a training class, program, or evolution. The learning objective identifies the condition, the task, and the standard to which the student must achieve.
see also: Task

- N -**NWCG Standard**

Added 1 A defined behavior, action, process, or equipment type, agreed upon by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group for wildland fire performance, and is necessary to meet consistent, interagency fire management activities.
see also: National Wildfire Coordinating Group

- O -

Open Line

Added 1 Refers to open fire front where no line has been constructed.

- P -

Position Currency Requirement

Added 1 The requirement to perform satisfactorily in a specified position within the last five years (three years for aviation and expanded dispatch positions) in order to maintain qualification for the position.

Position Performance Assignment

Added 1 An assignment in which an individual is being evaluated for tasks found in the position task book.
see also: Position Task Book

Position Task Book (PTB)

Added 1 A document listing the performance requirements (competencies and behaviors) for a position in a format that allows for the evaluation of individual (trainee) performance to determine if an individual is qualified in the position. Successful performance of PTB tasks, as observed and recorded by a qualified evaluator, will result in a recommendation to the trainee's home unit that the individual be certified in the position.

see also: Agency Certification

Behavior

Competency

Evaluator

Home Unit

Trainee

Public Information Officer (PIO1, PIO2, PIOF)

Added 1 This ICS position is responsible for developing and releasing information about the incident to the news media, incident personnel, and to other appropriate agencies and organizations. Reports to the Incident Commander and is a member of the Command Staff. This position may have one or more assistants assigned.

- R -

Radio Cache

Added 1 A cache may consist of a number of portable radios, base station, and, in some caches, a radio repeater that is stored in a predetermined location for dispatch to incidents.

Re-Certification

Added 1 Confirmation through the re-issuance of an incident qualification card that an individual has regained qualifications for a specified position that was lost through a lack of current experience. A key component in the certification or re-certification process is the subjective evaluation by the appropriate agency official of an individual's capability to perform in a position.

Recurrent Training

Added 1 Training scheduled at established intervals that has been identified as required training in order to maintain position currency.

Required Experience

Added 1 Documented, satisfactory performance in a specified position needed to qualify for another (usually higher level) position. Required experience cannot be challenged.

Required Training

Added 1 A course or courses that must be completed prior to initiating a position task book. Training which has been identified as required cannot be challenged; an agency equivalent course may be used as a substitute when the course meets or exceeds a required course's learning and performance objectives.

- S -**Structure Protection Plan**

Added 1 A plan developed by the Structure Protection Specialist that provides operational guidelines to suppression resources responsible for providing wildland fire structure protection.
see also: Structure Protection Specialist

Structure Protection Specialist (STPS)

Added 1 An individual responsible for developing an incident's structure protection plan, providing tactical direction and recommendations to incident planning and operations on efficient and safe utilization of resources assigned to provide wildland fire structure protection.
see also: Structure Protection Plan

Surface Tension

Changed 1 The elastic-like force at the surface of a liquid, tending to minimize the surface area and causing drops to form. Expressed as Newtons per meter or dynes per centimeter (1 Newton/m=1,000 dynes/cm).

Surge

Changed 1 Rapid increase in water flow which may result in a corresponding pressure rise.

- T -**Task**

Added 1 A unit of work activity that is a logical and necessary action in the performance of a behavior; how the behavior is demonstrated or performed in a particular context.
see also: Behavior

Technical Specialist (THSP)

Added 1 An individual with specialized job skills requiring no established minimum qualifications standards by the wildland fire community. THSP may perform the same duties during an incident that are performed in their regular job assignment with supplemental training in the Incident Command System and/or adaptations of their specialized skills for the incident environment that they are assigned. These specialized individuals whose skills may be gained through educational degree programs or industrial training required by established standards may be utilized anywhere within an incident organization.

Technical Specialists

Deleted 1 Personnel with special skills that can be used anywhere within the ICS organization. These personnel may perform the same duties during an incident that they perform in their everyday job.

Thread

Deleted 1 The specific dimensions of screw thread employed to coupled fire hose and equipment. American National Standards (NH) have been adopted for fire hose couplings threads in 3/4, 1-1/2, 2-1/2, 3-1/2, 4, 5, and 6-inch sizes.

Trainee

- Added** 1 An individual who has met all required training and position experience for a specified position and is approved by their home unit's certifying official, to initiate a performance based training assignment in order to become qualified in the position.

Trainer/Coach

- Added** 1 A position-qualified individual who provides instruction to a trainee in the classroom, on-the-job, or on an incident. While many of the requirements of the trainer/coach are similar to the evaluator, it is important that the roles of training and evaluation remain separate.

Transfer of Command

- Added** 1 The ICS management process in which the on-scene incident commander at a specified time hands off command responsibilities to the incident commander that will be taking over incident command.

- U -**Use of Wildland Fire**

- Deleted** 1 Either wildland fire use or prescribed fire applications to meet resource objectives.
see also: Fire Use
Prescribed Fire
Wildland Fire
Wildland Fire Use

- W -**Wildland Fire Investigator (INVF)**

- Changed** 1 An individual responsible for identifying and securing a wildfire's origin and determining the probable cause and documenting causal factors in a case report. INVF may not be directly assigned to an incident, working in conjunction with incident management as not to interfere with incident operations, while ensuring that an incident does not impede the on-scene investigation.