



Participant Announcement FY 2009 Sessions

Session Dates:

January 4, 2009 to January 23, 2009
February 1, 2009 to February 20, 2009
March 1, 2009 to March 20, 2009
March 29, 2009 to April 17, 2009

Location:

Tallahassee, Florida

Cost:

See section titled "Costs" for breakdown

Prerequisites:

1. Successful completion of S-290 (or agency equivalent)
2. Minimum of two (2) years experience in prescribed fire recommended
3. Qualified (or trainee) for RXB III, II, I (or agency equivalent)
Qualified (or trainee) for RXI II, I (or agency equivalent)
Qualified (or trainee) for FIRB (or agency equivalent)
Qualified (or trainee) for FEMO (or agency equivalent)

Applications for FY09 Sessions must be received at PFTC by October 15, 2008

Mission Statement:

To provide opportunities for federal, state, local and tribal government agencies and other organizations to build skills and knowledge of prescribed fire, with an emphasis on field experience.

Course Description/Objectives:

The National Interagency Prescribed Fire Training Center (PFTC), located in Tallahassee, Florida, is a facility designed to give individuals an opportunity to increase their prescribed fire practitioner skills. The 21-day session are designed to help facilitate the completion of prescribed fire task books. The Center provides opportunities to participate in large landscape prescribed burns involving the lands of several land management agencies in Florida and several surrounding states. A variety of uniformly applicable prescribed fire objectives and situations will be encountered in a field environment. **Applications from disciplines other than fire management are strongly encouraged.**

Sessions:

There will be four (4) 21-day sessions offered in FY 2009. Participants will be broken into teams of six. Each team of individuals will be a separate unit, working and studying together. The time allocated for the session will allow for approximately 8-12 days of actual prescribed burning, as well as 3-4 days of classroom instruction. Core topics presented are introductory in nature (presentations lasting from 2-4 hours each). The presenters are drawn from a national pool of subject matter experts. Supplementary topics will be presented if weather precludes field operations. PFTC's focus enables attendees to work toward the completion of items in their current NWCG task books. Field trips will be used to enhance the experience. All activities are strictly weather dependent.

PFTC will operate on the premise that every day will be a potential prescribed burning day to complement the core curriculum. Individuals will be expected to be **flexible** in their day-to-day activities in order to take advantage of every prescribed burning day. This may include working on acceptable burning days on weekends and any holidays that may fall within the cycle. One R&R day is set aside for each session.

All participants are expected to report to the PFTC "fire ready." This means having all necessary gear (personal and PPE) to go on fire duty for 21-day assignment. **Participants will be on Per Diem for the 21-day session.** The policy at the PFTC is shared lodging rooms. The nature of the training program requires equal flexibility in lodging arrangements (from bunkhouses to cabins to motels). Many host units are in remote locations. It will not always be possible to return from prescribed burns at convenient times for meals and showers.

The informal topics offered as part of the core curriculum are:

- Smoke Management and Air Quality
- Prescribed Fire Burn Plans and Wildfire Use (WFU)
- Prescribed Fire History and Use
- Monitoring and Evaluation of Fire Effects
- Cooperative Agreements
- Current Rx Fire Policy
- Fuels management in the wildland urban interface
- Supplementary topics may include: Ignition Methods (including aerial), Organizing Multiple Burns, GIS Applications, Software Overviews, Risk Assessment, and Fire Ecology.

Participants will not normally be able to complete their prescribed burning qualification task books during their assignment but can complete individual tasks leading up to qualification. Final certification hinges on the home unit.

Pre-work - Performance Evaluation:

All participants will be required to complete pre-work and receive a performance evaluation. Pre-work will be based on the Guide for Prescribed Fire in Southern Forests. Final requirement for completing the 21-day session is receiving a "successful" performance evaluation from the module Field Coordinator.

Upper College Credit – Lower Division College Credit

The PFTC is in the process of applying upper division college credit. However, session attendees will be given the opportunity to apply for five (5) hours of lower division college credit **at the out-of-state tuition rate of approximately \$1200.** The credits you will receive will be technical courses associated with Fire Science or Forestry related degrees. The 21-day sessions are sanctioned by Tallahassee Community College, therefore; enabling these lower credit hours to be transferable to many colleges nation-wide. If a student is currently enrolled in a 4-year degree program at another college, PFTC can, at the student's request, provide a copy of the course syllabus for review by the student's college. These lower division credits may be applied towards professional credit for the GS-401 series. **Participants are responsible for the cost and purchase of these credits through Tallahassee Community College.**

Costs:

Presently there is no tuition. All participants will be responsible for covering their meals and lodging on their travel card. As stated above, most lodging sites are shared room situations. If there is a charge, the nightly fee will be divided. **You will be on Per Diem** during the 21-day session.

BLM and FWS participants, the home unit will be responsible for covering base 8, overtime, transportation to and from PFTC, meals and lodging.

NPS participants, **the home unit will be responsible for covering base 8 salary, travel to and from PFTC, and overtime incurred in route to and from PFTC.** Arrangements have been made at the national level (through FMPC) to cover overtime, meals and lodging while attending PFTC. Request for account numbers should be directed to the FMPC Fuels Lead via the Regional Fuels Staff. Upon completion of the PFTC assignment, it will be necessary to provide the FMPC Fuels Lead with amount charged to the FMPC account.

FS participants, **the home unit will be responsible for covering base 8 salary, travel to and from PFTC, and overtime incurred in route to and from PFTC.** Costs for meals, lodging, and overtime while attending PFTC will be paid by PFTC since additional funds have been received to cover these expenses.

How to Apply:

Please complete the PFTC application, and print a copy of your most recent IQCS qualifications. Submit these forms to the Prescribed Fire Training Center by the **October 15, 2008** deadline. Be sure to provide all pertinent information, including documentation of minimum qualifications, to facilitate the selection process. All applications will be collated and forwarded as follows:

All Forest Service applications will be forwarded to the Geographic Area Training Representative who will prioritize the applicants from their area.

All Department of Interior applications will be sent to their respective agency National Training Representative who will prioritize the applicants.

Selected participants will be notified by the first of November 2008.

Additional Information Contact:

Qualification • Session Questions
Jim Durrwachter – (ofc) 850/523-8633 or (cell) 850/766-1254

Task Book • Fire Training Questions
Greg Seamon – (ofc) 850/523-8631 or (cell) 850/556-8613

Cost • Administrative Questions
Carolyn Detwiler – (ofc) 850/523-8634 or (cell) 850/766-1693

Application Questions
Lil Dyck – (ofc) 850/523-8635