



2023  
First Nations' Emergency Services Society

***Wildland Firefighter Training  
Program***

The following document is intended to function as:

Program Guide  
and  
Application

# Wildland Firefighter Training Program

## Program Outline

**Program Scope:** Training community members to the Type 2 Wildland Firefighter standard as designated by BC Wildfire Service. Training will be provided by a verified contractor in community and all trainer fees will be covered by FNESS directly.

**Program Value:** Total courseload valued in excess of \$20,000 for industry equivalent training.

**Program Timelines:** 2023 Spring onward (geography and weather permitting)

**Eligibility:** All First Nation communities are eligible to apply. Maximum occupancy of 20 participants. Minimum of 10 preferred.

**Eligible Costs and Activities:** All contractor fees associated with training courses listed on Page 2. Course descriptions can be found in [Appendix A](#)

**Facility Requirements:** Community must provide a classroom setting, an outdoor area to practice fireline fundamentals and if applicable, an area with adequate wood to practice chainsaw use.

**Payments:** FNESS will cover all costs associated with the instructor as per contract between FNESS and the instructor.

## Process

**Step 1: Fill out the Application Form and submit to Karen Alexandre [kalexandre@fness.bc.ca](mailto:kalexandre@fness.bc.ca)**

FNESS wildfire specialists will review the application and will enter a contract agreement with the instructor that is preferred by the community. If the community does not have an instructor in mind, FNESS will connect the community contact with one of our vetted and contracted instructors.

**Step 2: Coordinate facilities and dates with instructor and relay to FNESS.**

The instructor will then forward the dates and course schedule to FNESS Wildfire Specialists for approval. If the community does not have adequate facilities to host the instructor, please contact a FNESS wildfire specialist to discuss alternate venues.

**Step 3: Contractor will provide a copy of course attendance, feedback, and scanned certificates back to FNESS.**

As part of the funding process, FNESS is required to track who in each community has received wildland fire training.

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## Application Form

Please submit to: [kalexandre@fness.bc.ca](mailto:kalexandre@fness.bc.ca)

| APPLICANT INFORMATION                |   |  |                    |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|--------------------|
| Community Name:                      |   | Date:  |                    |
| Community Address:                   |   | Proposed Training Date(s):                         |                    |
| Contact Name:                        |   | Contact Position:                                  |                    |
| Contact Phone:                       |   | Contact E-mail:                                    |                    |
| COURSE CHECKLIST:                    |   |  | Number of Students |
| Entry Level Requirements<br>≈ 2 days | S-100   | Basic Fire Suppression                             |                    |
|                                      | S-185   | Fire Entrapment Avoidance                          |                    |
| Type 2 Crew Members<br>≈ 3 Days      | S-211   | The Fire Environment for Fire Fighters             |                    |
|                                      | S-212   | Fireline Communications                            |                    |
|                                      | S-213   | Use of Bulldozers and Heavy Equipment              |                    |
|                                      | S-235   | Ignition Operations (Burning Off and Backfiring)   |                    |
|                                      | I-100   | Incident Command System 100                        |                    |
|                                      | WHMIS   | Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System   |                    |
|                                      | TDG   | Transportation of Dangerous Goods                  |                    |
| Crew Leader Specific<br>≈ 2 days     | S-230   | Single Resource Leader/Introduction to Supervision |                    |
|                                      | S-241   | Fire Assessment                                    |                    |
|                                      | I-200   | Incident Command System 200                        |                    |
| Chainsaw<br>2-3 days                 | Power Saw Operator - Length dependent on instructor preference  |  |                    |
| UNBC<br>2-3 days                     | <b>Danger Tree Assessment (DTA) – Wildfire Module</b><br><i>* Administered by University of Northern British Columbia, requires separate application through Wildfire Specialist.</i> |  |                    |



# Wildland Firefighter Training Program

## Appendix A – Course Descriptions

### **Entry Level Courses**

**Mandatory for work on any wildfire and applicable to forestry employment**

#### **S-100 Basic Fire Suppression**

This course covers the basic terminology used in wildland fire suppression operations, basic fireline suppression tactics, and water delivery methods. The second day of training consists of practical pump and hose layout, water delivery, and demobilization of a hoselay.

#### **S-185 Fire Entrapment Avoidance**

The S-185 provides crucial safety procedures for eliminating the risk of fire entrapment and provides tactics to follow during an entrapment threat. Students will learn that a safety-first attitude, a commitment to using LACES and a shared responsibility to maintain situational awareness are essential habits to keep crews safe in the ever-changing wildfire environment.

### **Type 2 Courses**

**Minimum training for a Type 2 crew member**

#### **S-211 The Fire Environment for Fire Fighters**

This course provides a general overview of the fire environment for firefighters and dispatchers. Participants will gain a basic understanding of weather, the relationship between weather and fire behaviour and the relationship between weather and crew comfort and safety.

#### **S-212 Fireline Communications**

This course discusses proper radio communications, types of radio equipment, simplex vs duplex radio systems, and practical demonstrations on transmitting to BC Wildfire Dispatchers.

#### **S-213 Use of Bulldozers and Heavy Equipment**

This course discusses the various types of heavy equipment, their uses and limitations on the fireline, as well as proper fire guard construction techniques. Safe work attitudes and practices around heavy equipment are highlighted to ensure the safety of operators and ground crews.

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## **S-235 Ignition Operations (Burning Off and Backfiring)**

This course is designed to provide fire suppression personnel with the fundamental knowledge and skills to perform ignition operations safely and effectively. Upon completion, participants will demonstrate a working knowledge of the duties and responsibilities, ignition devices, ignition techniques and safety requirements involved when participating on an ignitions team.

## **ICS 100 Incident Command System 100**

I-100 serves as an introduction to the Incident Command System (ICS) and provides the foundation for higher level ICS training. This orientation describes the history, features and principles, and organizational structure of the Incident Command System.

## **Crew Leader Courses**

**Relevant for potential crew leader candidates**

## **S-230 Single Resource Leader/Introduction to Supervision**

This course aims to provide potential crew leaders with the knowledge and skills necessary to function as effective Single Resource Leaders (SRL). Participants will become familiar with how and where the SRL fits into the ICS as well as specific elements of safely supervising staff on active wildfires.

## **S-241 Fire Assessment**

This course offers skill development for new and emerging crew leaders on the elements of fire assessments, as well as how to provide a successful fire assessment. Through practical examples, participants will prepare a concise, accurate assessment of a fire, as well as prepare Initial Fire Reports (IFRs) based on photos or videos of real wildfires.

## **ICS 200 Incident Command System 200**

ICS 200 explains in-depth how the ICS is used to manage single resources and what management is required to initially action incidents. Upon completion, participants will be better prepared to assume a supervisory position within the ICS.

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## **Industrial Safety Courses**

**Courses that apply to all worksites**

### **WHMIS - Workplace Hazardous Materials Identification Systems**

This course goes over the use of Safety Data Sheets (SDS) and proper labeling and documentation of the various goods found on any worksite.

### **TDG – Transportation of Dangerous Goods**

This course covers the safe handling, storage, and reporting of dangerous goods by various modes of transport as well as how to properly utilize placards to meet legislative requirements.

## **Power Saw Operator**

**2-3 days dependent on instructor and group size**

The Power Saw Operator course is a combined classroom/ field course. The first day covers chainsaw theory, personal protective equipment, maintenance, and handling techniques. The second day is one on one hands-on instruction using a chainsaw and practicing basic bucking maneuvers.

The community should have a site in mind that applicants can easily travel to, where they are allowed to practice basic bucking techniques (e.g. local woodlot, mill site, trails impacted by blowdown, etc.)

**Please note that this course in no way certifies individuals to manually fall trees**

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## UNBC Courses

All coursework facilitated by and certified through University of Northern British Columbia

### **WDTA - Wildfire Danger Tree Assessment**

This course is taught through UNBC and introduces students to the Dangerous Tree Field Assessment Manual, the various mechanisms of failure in different tree species, as well as the concept of Level of Disturbance (LOD). The first day is a classroom day, while the second is a field day. Students will receive a combined mark based on a field and written test, both done on the second day.

**Please note that alternative test taking methods are not currently available. Individuals who struggle with written tests may not be successful in this course**

### **Prerequisites from UNBC:**

Candidates **must have** the following minimum course prerequisites at the time of registration:

1. Three or more years of practical field experience in the area of forestry, resource management, parks management, wildland fire protection, arboriculture, or a related field; and
2. Grade 10 equivalency in reading, writing and arithmetic skills (including the ability to calculate percentages); and
3. Ability to identify tree species native to BC; and,
4. Proven forestry measurement skills to determine tree diameter, height, lean, stem cross-section, and skill in distance measuring.

Additionally, candidates taking the Wildland Fire Safety module **must also have** the following course prerequisites at the time of registration:

5. Persons must demonstrate that they have recent fire-line experience, (at least 10 days over the previous three years); OR
6. Persons have a minimum five days of documented Dangerous Tree assessment experience (harvesting/silviculture, parks) in the previous calendar year.



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