

NWCG CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT ISSUE PAPER #105
STATUS AND ASSIGNMENT OF COURSE NUMBER FOR
FIRE INVESTIGATION COURSE
October 6, 2009

BACKGROUND

The Wildland Fire Investigation Working Team (WFIWT) was established with a primary objective of development of wildland fire investigation training at several skill levels. The first skill level was the First Responder level, which was supported by the development and certification of FI-110, *Wildland Fire Observations and Origin Scene Protection for First Responders*. The second level was origin and cause determination, which has been supported by the development and certification of FI 210, *Wildland Fire Origin and Cause Determination*.

The latest revision of the PMS 310-1, June 2009, includes the Wildland Fire Investigation Team Member (INTM) position. The required training for this position is FI-310, *Wildland Fire Investigation: Case Development*. To date, this course has been offered at least 12 times, in the US and Canada, with an upcoming course scheduled for participants from Australia and New Zealand. To date, participants of this course have returned to their home units and successfully resolved long standing serial arson cases on seven occasions. This course has satisfied the requirement for developing a position that can manage serious, complex cases, with an emphasis on criminal arson. What is missing from the total equation to date is a course that focuses on the management of complex civil cases.

A decision from the 101st NWCG meeting, January 2008, was that a supporting course for the second level position (INTM) should be developed. This course has tentatively been identified as FI-311 and shifts the focus to the management of these complex civil cases, which often involve resource and suppression costs that run into the millions of dollars. As the issues that are involved are materially different than those associated with criminal arson cases, the Fire Investigation Working Team feels that this is a critical adjunct training component. The course should not be a “stand-alone” certified level of investigator, but should be complementary to the second level of certified investigator, just as the powerline fire and railroad fire courses are currently.

CURRENT STATUS

This course has currently been under development for the past year with approximate completion and alpha testing during the fall of 2010. The NWCG Training Standards Unit will be involved in reviewing and certifying the course.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) Assign the FI-311 course number to the Wildland Fire Investigation: Civil Case Management course.

- 2) Update the NWCG Curriculum Maintenance Plan to include FI-311. As with FI-310, this course will be certified, but not published. The Wildland Fire Investigation Subcommittee of the Communication, Education and Prevention Committee will be responsible for maintenance and instruction.
- 3) Add the FI-311 course to the PMS 310-1 for the INTM position as “Other Training which Supports Development of Knowledge and Skills”.

APPROVED / **DENIED**
(circle one)

SIGNATURE

Rosemary Thomas

October 21, 2009

Operations and Workforce Development Committee Chair

Date