

2026 NWCG PIO Positions and Pathways

BEGIN AS A PIOT OR PIO3(t)

PIOT is not required before initiating a PIO3 Position Task Book (PTB).

Advancement to PIO3 and PIOC represents taking on increased leadership responsibility - not a required progression.

PIOT (Technician)

There is no task book for PIOT.

EXPERIENCE

- None

TRAINING

- S-110: Basic Wildland Fire Orientation
- ICS-100: Introduction to ICS
- ICS-200: ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents
- IS-700: NIMS: An Introduction
- RT-130: Wildland Fire Safety Training Annual Refresher*

*Annual refresher can be taken without completion of S130/190

Discontinued Position Pathways:

PIO1 & PIO2 positions are archived as of 01/2026.

PIO1(t) & PIO2(t) responders without a completed Position Task Book should initiate the PIOC PTB to address any remaining or new tasks; tasks completed in the previous Type 1 or Type 2 PTB are credited towards completion of the Complex PTB. Trainees will also need to successfully complete the S-520: Advanced Incident Management Course OR the Complex Incident Management Course (CIMC), alongside any required position-specific training.

PIO3

PIO3(t) (trainee) initiates PIO3 PTB, completes task book and required training.

EXPERIENCE

- Completion and Certification of NWCG Public Information Officer Type 3 (PIO3) PTB, PMS 311-114

TRAINING

- L-180: Human Factors in the Wildland Fire Service
- S-130: Firefighter Training
- S-190: Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior
- ICS-100: Intro to ICS
- ICS-200: Basic ICS
- ICS-300: Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents
- ICS-400: Advanced ICS for Command and General Staff
- IS-700: NIMS: An Introduction
- IS-800: National Response Framework, An Introduction
- RT-130: Wildland Fire Safety Training Annual Refresher (WFSTAR)
- S-203: Introduction to Incident Information OR E/L 952, All-Hazards Position-Specific Public Information Officer.

BEFORE INITIATING the PIOC Position Task Book

S-420: Command and General Staff OR

L-481: Advanced Leadership for Command and General Staff OR

O-305: Type 3 All-Hazard Incident Management Team

MUST BE COMPLETED.

PIOC (Complex)

PIO3 becomes PIOC(t), initiates PIOC PTB, completes task book and required training.

EXPERIENCE

- Satisfactory performance as a Public Information Officer, Type 3 (PIO3)
- AND Completion and Certification of NWCG Public Information Officer Complex (PIOC) PTB, PMS 311-106

TRAINING

- RT-130: Wildland Fire Safety Training Annual Refresher (WFSTAR)
- S-420: Command and General Staff OR L-481: Advanced Leadership for Command and General Staff OR O-305: Type 3 All-Hazard Incident Management Team
- S-520: Advanced Incident Management OR Complex Incident Management Course (CIMC)