



National Wildfire Coordinating Group
Incident and Position Standards Committee

IPSC-2024-08

Date: 4 November 2024
To: Nick Nauslar, Chair, Fire Environment Committee
From: Michael Froelich, Chair, Incident and Position Standards Committee
Subject: Approval to Add Prerequisite Required Training to the Fire Behavior Analyst Qualification

Purpose: This memorandum approves the content of Incident and Position Standards Committee (IPSC) Request for Change 2024-01 received from the Fire Environment Committee to require Fire Behavior Analyst (FBAN) responders to successfully complete the S-491, *Intermediate National Fire Danger Rating System* training course, or equivalent, prior to attending the S-590, *Advanced Fire Behavior Interpretation* course.

Action: This change only affects responders seeking the FBAN qualification. Currently qualified FBANs and responders qualified by December 31, 2024, will not be required to complete the S-491, or equivalent, training course. Effective January 1, 2025, FBAN trainees that have not completed S-590, will be required to successfully complete S-491, or equivalent, prior to taking S-590. FBAN trainees that have completed S-590, but not S-491, or equivalent, will not be required to complete the S-491, or equivalent, training course. Changes will be incorporated into the January 2025 update of the *NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire Position Qualifications*, PMS 310-1.

Background and Coordination: FBANs need a working understanding of inputs, outputs, and application of fire danger indices to the current and near-future fire environment. The necessary skills and latest tools are taught in S-491; FBANs without these skills will have difficulty analyzing the full impacts of the changing fire environment.

This RFC was voted on during the June IPSC meeting with support from all agencies prior to the issuance of *NWCG Pause of New Incident Positions and Courses*, Memo 24-006.

Direct questions to Nick Nauslar, Chair, Fire Environment Committee at nick.nauslar@noaa.gov, or Michael Froelich and Monica Ramirez, PMS 310-1 stewards, at michael.froelich@ky.gov, and monica.ramirez@usda.gov.

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