



NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP

NIAC Memorandum 25-06

November 5, 2025

TO: Michael Froelich, Chair, Incident and Positions Standards Committee (IPSC)
FROM: Matt Woodwick, Chair, National Interagency Aviation Committee (NIAC)
SUBJECT: Update to Unmanned Aircraft System, Data Specialist (UASD) Position

Issue/Action: To update the qualification requirements and progression pathway of the UASD position in the *NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire Position Qualifications*, PMS 310-1, based on analysis conducted during the Incident Performance and Training Modernization (IPTM) effort.

Specifically, this action would update the following position qualification standards:

- Add Required Training: L-180, Human Factors in the Wildland Fire Service, RT-130, Wildland Fire Safety Training Annual Refresher (WFSTAR), S-130, Firefighter Training, S-190, Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior.
- Add Other Training Which Supports Development Of Knowledge And Skills: A-100, Basic Aviation Safety, A-109, Aviation Radio Use, A-200, Mishap Review.

Historical recognition will be applied to all currently qualified responders, with the exception of the annual requirement for RT-130 which all UASD responders will be required to complete to maintain qualification.

These updates would be made in the *NWCG Standards for the Wildland Fire Positions Qualifications*, PMS 310-1 and the *NWCG Wildland Fire Position Qualification Flowchart*, PMS 308.

Background: Through the IPTM analysis process, the NWCG National Interagency Aviation Committee has approved the change in the qualification pathways for UASD.

Contact: For additional information please contact Matt Woodwick, NIAC Chair, matthew.woodwick@state.mn.us.

Distribution:

NWCG IPSC Chair
NWCG IPSC 310-1 Steward

NWCG standards are interagency by design; however, the decision to adopt and utilize them is made independently by the individual member agencies and communicated through their respective directives systems.