



## NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP

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### Risk Management Committee

RMC Memorandum 26-01

April 10, 2026

TO: Wildland Fire Community

FROM: Persephone Whelan, Chair, Risk Management Committee (RMC)  
Michael Guarino, Chair, Hazard Tree and Tree Felling Subcommittee (HTTFS)

SUBJECT: Transition Plan for Implementing Updates to the Intermediate Faller (FAL2) Position Qualification

**Purpose:** The performance support package and qualification pathway for the FAL2 position have been updated. This memorandum provides the transition plan for implementing these changes. Please distribute this information through your agency channels.

**Issue/Action:** HTTFS convened an interagency group of subject matter experts (SMEs) to modernize the Faller curriculum. This group updated the Incident Position Description, revised the *NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire Chainsaw Operations*, PMS 212, developed the Next Generation Position Task Book (Next Gen PTB), and finalized the course for the FAL2 position. The FAL2 course is online training (OLT) to reduce barriers for delivery.

S-212, Intermediate Faller (Online) was certified in 2026 and is available on the NWCG Course Catalog. The *NWCG Position Task Book for Intermediate Faller (FAL2)*, PMS 311-91 was also approved in 2026 and is available on the NWCG Position Task Book Catalog. Upon the release of the January 2027 revision of the *NCWG Standards for Wildland Fire Position Qualifications*, PMS 310-1, both S-212, Intermediate Faller (Online) and the Next Gen PTB, *NWCG Position Task Book for Intermediate Faller (FAL2)*, PMS 311-91, will be required for FAL2 qualification.

Transition Guidance for FAL2 Required Training and Experience:

- Historical recognition will be applied to all currently qualified FAL2 responders. Qualified FAL2 responders are not required to complete the new S-212, Intermediate Faller (Online) course but are encouraged to do so.
- FAL2 trainees who completed S-212, Wildland Fire Chainsaws (2012) or S-112, Introduction to Chainsaw Operations (Online) and have at least one documented experience in a Classic PTB will continue using their current Classic PTB and are encouraged to complete S-212, Intermediate Faller (Online).
- FAL2 trainees who completed S-212, Wildland Fire Chainsaws (2012) or S-112, Introduction to Chainsaw Operations (Online) but have no documented experience records in a Classic PTB will transition to the Next Gen PTB, *NWCG Position Task Book for Intermediate Faller (FAL2)*, PMS 311-91 and are encouraged to complete S-212, Intermediate Faller (Online).
- New FAL2 trainees (starting January 2027) must complete S-212, Intermediate Faller (Online) and use the Next Gen PTB, *NWCG Position Task Book for Intermediate Faller (FAL2)*, PMS 311-91.

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.

**Background and Coordination:** In July 2019, the NWCG Executive Board tasked HTTFS with addressing the Captain Brian Hughes Fatality Joint Corrective Action Plan (TM-19-003). As part of this effort, HTTFS submitted a Request for Change (RFC-2023-06) to the Incident and Position Standards Committee (IPSC) to transition from the existing S-212, Wildland Fire Chainsaws (2012) course to three updated chainsaw courses. IPSC approved this request in August of 2023 (IPSC-2023-10).

**Contact:** For additional information, please contact your agency RMC or HTTFS representative. Member rosters are available at <https://www.nwcg.gov/committee/risk-management-committee/roster> or <https://www.nwcg.gov/committee/hazard-tree-and-tree-felling-subcommittee/roster>.

**Distribution:**

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