



NWCG Position Task Book for Intermediate Faller (FAL2)

PMS 311-91

JANUARY 2026

SIGNATURE PAGE

Initiation

Trainee's Name: _____

Initiated By: _____

Home Unit/Agency: _____

Title: _____

Home Unit Address: _____

Home Unit/Agency: _____

Phone Number: _____

Phone Number: _____

Date: _____

IQCS/IQS#: _____

Verification

I verify that _____ has successfully performed the tasks of the position, as documented on position evaluation records and the position evaluation table, and should be considered for certification in the position.

Final Evaluator Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Title: _____

Home Unit/Agency: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Agency Certification

I certify that _____ has met all the requirements for qualification in the position and that such qualification may be issued.

Certifying Official Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Title: _____

Home Unit/Agency: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

INSTRUCTIONS FOR NWCG NEXT GENERATION POSITION TASK BOOK

The Next Generation Position Task Books (Next Gen PTBs) are designed to provide a format that enhances the feedback an evaluator provides to a trainee. An evaluator using the Next Gen PTB has a mechanism to rate how well the trainee performs each task and to provide written narratives to accompany the evaluation ratings using the position evaluation records.

The Next Gen PTB has three components: The **SIGNATURE PAGE**, **POSITION EVALUATION TABLE**, and **POSITION EVALUATION RECORDS**.

SIGNATURE PAGE:

The signature page documents three phases of the Next Gen PTB: initiation, verification, and agency certification.

The initiation block is filled out by the home unit/agency when the Next Gen PTB is issued. It indicates that the designated individual is recognized by the home unit/agency as a trainee in the position.

The verification block is completed by the final evaluator once the trainee has successfully met or exceeded satisfactory performance of all tasks in the Next Gen PTB and is recommended for certification by the final evaluator.

The agency certification block is completed by the certifying official of the home unit/agency. It provides a record that the trainee has been certified and is qualified in the position.

POSITION EVALUATION TABLE:

The position evaluation table is used to record the evaluations that a trainee receives for each training assignment. A rating must be provided for each task in the position evaluation table on every training assignment.

The position evaluation table lists the tasks required to be evaluated for successful performance in the position. See the *NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire Chainsaw Operations*, PMS 212, for explanations of each task. Additional tasks that are not required to be evaluated are covered in the Incident Position Standards. These tasks still represent standards for successful performance in the position and should be included in a comprehensive training assignment.

The Next Gen PTB includes four columns to record ratings for each task. If the training assignment is not the first assignment for a trainee, the evaluator should review the position evaluation table and position evaluation records of the previous training assignments. A trainee does not have to complete four training assignments to be recommended for certification. The home unit will determine the appropriate number of assignments. If additional training assignments are needed, a second position evaluation table should be utilized and attached to the PTB.

Each task must be rated during each training assignment. The evaluator will rate the performance of the tasks as follows:

N/O = No opportunity to perform the task.

D = Does not meet the standard for the task as described in the Incident Position Standards.

M = Meets the standard for the task as described in the Incident Position Standards.

E = Exceeds the standard for the task as described in the Incident Position Standards.

The evaluator will indicate their rating of the trainee's performance by marking their rating (N/O, D, M or E) in the column for each task in the position evaluation table. If the trainee does not meet the standard (i.e., is rated D for a task), the evaluator must provide written explanation with suggestions for improvement in the position evaluation record. This may include redirecting the trainee to the Incident Position Standards for review. Written feedback is encouraged for all other ratings. Prior to certification, the trainee must attain a rating of M or E for each of the identified tasks.

Each task has a code associated with the type of training assignment where the task must be completed. Tasks must be evaluated on the specific types of incidents/events for which they are coded. If multiple codes are listed for a task, the task must be evaluated on one of the listed incidents/events. For example, W/S indicates the task must be performed on a wildfire or during a simulation. The codes are defined as:

I = Incident: Task must be performed on an incident managed under the Incident Command System (ICS). Examples include wildland fire, structural fire, oil spill, search and rescue, hazardous material, and an emergency or non-emergency (planned prescribed fire or unplanned) event.

W = Wildfire: Task must be performed on a wildfire incident.

RX = Prescribed fire: Task must be performed on a prescribed fire incident.

R = Rare event: Rare events such as accidents, injuries, vehicle, or aircraft crashes occur infrequently and opportunities to evaluate performance in a real setting are limited. The evaluator should determine, through interview, if the trainee would be able to perform the task in a real situation.

S = Simulation: Task must be performed during a simulation. The simulation activity must realistically mimic the task and allow the evaluator to determine if the trainee would be able to perform the task in a real situation. Resources are available on the NWCG Leadership Committee's Tactical Decision Games webpage <https://www.nwcg.gov/wfldp/toolbox/tactical-decision-games>.

O = Other: In any situation (classroom, simulation, daily job, incident, prescribed fire, etc.)

POSITION EVALUATION RECORD:

The position evaluation record is used to document the specific details of each training assignment, and to document the evaluator's final recommendation regarding position certification. A new position evaluation record is required for each training assignment.

Position Evaluation Record Number

Each evaluator will need to complete a position evaluation record. Each position evaluation record should be numbered sequentially. Place this number at the top of the position evaluation record page and use this number to determine which column to rate the trainee in the position evaluation table.

Trainee Information

Print the trainee's name and indicate if the assignment is virtual.

Evaluator Information

Print the evaluator's name, position on the incident/event, IQCS/IQS number, home unit/agency, and the home unit/agency address and phone number. Evaluators must be qualified as an Advanced Faller (FAL1). The evaluator's relevant qualification field is below the evaluator's signature line on the position evaluation record.

Incident/Event Information

Incident/Event Name: Print the incident/event name.

Reference: Enter the incident code and/or fire code.

Duration: Enter inclusive dates during which the trainee was evaluated.

Incident Kind: Check the kind of incident and specify if other (e.g., search and rescue, flood, etc.).

Location: Enter the geographic area, agency, and state.

Management Type or Prescribed Fire Complexity Level: Check the ICS organization level or the prescribed fire complexity level.

Fire Behavior Prediction System (FBPS) Fuel Model Group: Check the fuel model group that corresponds to the predominant fuel type in which the incident/event occurred.

Grass Group (includes FBPS Fuel Models 1 – 3): 1 = short grass (1 foot); 2 = timber with grass understory; 3 = tall grass (1½ - 2 feet)

Brush Group (includes FBPS Fuel Models 4 – 6): 4 = chaparral (6 feet); 5 = brush (2 feet); 6 = dormant brush/hardwood slash; 7 = southern rough

Timber Group (includes FBPS Fuel Models 8 – 10): 8 = closed timber litter; 9 = hardwood litter; 10 = timber (with litter understory)

Slash Group (includes FBPS Fuel Models 11 – 13): 11 = light logging slash; 12 = medium logging slash; 13 = heavy logging slash

Evaluator's Recommendation

The last block in the position evaluation record is for the evaluator's recommendation of trainee. The evaluator will initial only one line 1 – 3. If the evaluator is recommending the trainee for certification, the evaluator will also fill out the verification block of the Signature Page.

Remarks on Individual Performance

This section provides space for written narrative of the trainee's performance. If the trainee does not meet the standard (i.e., is rated D for a task), the evaluator must provide written explanation with suggestions for improvement on the position evaluation record. This may include redirecting the trainee to the Incident Position Standards for review. Written feedback is encouraged for all other ratings. This is meant as an opportunity to provide informative and constructive feedback to the trainee and the trainee's home unit, so they know what to focus on in the future.

At the conclusion of the training assignment, the evaluator and trainee should discuss the training assignment, ratings, and evaluator recommendations. When this is done, the trainee and evaluator will sign and date the position evaluation record on the lines indicated.

Additionally, the Next Gen PTB can be used as an evaluation tool for qualified individuals.

COMPLETION OF A NEXT GEN PTB:

When an evaluator recommends a trainee for certification, the trainee is responsible for ensuring the Next Gen PTB is complete and submitted to the home unit/agency for review by the certifying official. The complete Next Gen PTB package includes the signature page with the verification block signed by the final evaluator, the position evaluation table, and every position evaluation record.



NWCG Position Evaluation Table

Intermediate Faller (FAL2)

Trainee Name: _____

All tasks must be evaluated and assigned one of the four ratings for each assignment. If the trainee does not meet the standard (i.e., is rated D for a task), the evaluator must provide written explanation with suggestions for improvement on the position evaluation record. Written feedback is encouraged for all other ratings.

N/O = No opportunity to perform the task.

D = Does not meet the standard for the task as described in the Incident Position Standards.

M = Meets the standard for the task as described in the Incident Position Standards.

E = Exceeds the standard for the task as described in the Incident Position Standards.

I have reviewed the *NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire Chainsaw Operations*, PMS 212 for additional information about each task. (Box to be checked by trainee.)

Standard Tasks for the Position of Intermediate Faller (FAL2)

	Leadership Level 2, New Leader (Convey Intent)	CODE	Position Evaluation Record Number			
			1	2	3	4
1	A new leader begins transitioning from a follower to a leader of small groups to achieve a common goal. They begin to implement team cohesion, accept responsibility for self and team, and apply effective communications.	O				

	Prepare and Mobilize	CODE	Position Evaluation Record Number			
			1	2	3	4
2	Comply with FAL2 position standards as defined in <i>NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire Chainsaw Operations</i> , PMS 212, and established agency standards for saw operating procedures.	O				
3	Ensure individual and equipment readiness. Have proper PPE, chainsaw kit, necessary forms, and reference material (e.g., PTB, IRPG).	O				
4	Travel to work site or assignment and check in with supervisor or dispatch upon arrival.	O				
5	Actively participate in initial briefing from supervisor.	O				

Standard Tasks for the Position of Intermediate Faller (FAL2)

	Build the Team	CODE	Position Evaluation Record Number			
			1	2	3	4
6	Participate in the development, implementation, and direction of chainsaw related objectives, priorities, and work assignments for saw team members.	O				
7	Develop a communication plan for working with swamper(s) to improve safety and efficiencies.	O				
8	Participate in training and mentoring Basic Fallers (FAL3) in the classroom and field.	O				

	Perform Intermediate Faller Specific Duties	CODE	Position Evaluation Record Number			
			1	2	3	4
9	Demonstrate an understanding of chainsaw component functions and the mechanical proficiency necessary to perform periodic maintenance and repairs sufficient to keep equipment in working order.	O				
10	Clearly articulate the objective of a moderate complexity chainsaw operation.	O				
11	Utilize the “outside-in, top-down” approach to perform a hazard assessment. Hazards should be articulated and mitigation controls developed and implemented if necessary.	O				
12	Demonstrate an understanding of tree anatomy and defects contributing to failure in a variety of tree species.	O				
13	Determine tree structural stability and potential fiber characteristics through use of boring techniques and sounding.	O				
14	Accurately determine both the natural and calculated leans in a moderate complexity felling operation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quantify and verbalize the calculated lean, in feet, for both forward/back lean and side to side lean relative to the objective. Demonstrate the ability to use a plumb bob, axe, or limb-weight distribution method to determine leans. 	O				
15	Develop an escape plan, free of obstructions, that takes into consideration the good side and bad side of the tree. Multiple escape paths are preferred but may not be available.	O				
16	Develop a cutting plan that includes the appropriate undercut type, depth, and location, backcut placement, acceptable hinge width and length, and acceptable stump shot, relative to the objective and the determined good/bad side of the tree.	O				
17	Develop a wedging plan that includes the appropriate size, number, and placement of wedges.	O				

Standard Tasks for the Position of Intermediate Faller (FAL2)

	Perform Intermediate Faller Specific Duties	CODE	Position Evaluation Record Number			
			1	2	3	4
18	Determine the overall complexity of the chainsaw operation and make a go/no-go decision.	O				
19	Develop and safely execute a cutting plan to fell a moderate complexity hazard tree (fire weakened or structurally compromised).	O				
20	Develop and safely execute a cutting plan to mitigate a moderate complexity hung-up tree.	O				
21	Develop and safely execute a cutting plan to directionally fell a tree with side lean.	O				
22	Develop and safely execute a cutting plan to directionally fell a tree with back lean.	O				
23	Develop and safely execute a cutting plan to fell a tree with significant forward lean.	O				
24	Recognize changes in complexity or deviation from initial cutting plan, verbalize corrections, and reinitiate procedural sizeup.	O				
25	Following a moderate complexity felling operation, conduct a stump analysis and demonstrate an understanding of cause and effect of the observed cuts relative to the objective and final lay.	O				
26	Correctly identify binds, manage tension and compression forces, and accurately anticipate movement of limbs or downed logs while safely executing a moderate complexity limbing operation.	O				
27	Correctly identify binds, manage tension and compression forces, and plan for cut material disposal while safely executing a moderate complexity bucking operation.	O				
28	Demonstrate an understanding of various techniques, cut sequencing, and sawyer/swamper positioning to increase safety and efficiency during a moderate complexity brushing operation.	O				
29	Perform the duties of a FAL2 on a wildland fire or prescribed fire incident.	W/RX				

	Communicate and Coordinate	CODE	Position Evaluation Record Number			
			1	2	3	4
30	Before engaging, receive a thorough briefing, ask clarifying questions, and voice concerns related to chainsaw operation specifications and expectations.	O				

Standard Tasks for the Position of Intermediate Faller (FAL2)

	Communicate and Coordinate	CODE	Position Evaluation Record Number			
			1	2	3	4
31	Establish and maintain positive communication and coordination with saw teams, your crew, adjoining resources, and supervisors in the work area.	O				
32	Clearly identify safety hazards and no-work zones in coordination with supervisors and adjacent resources.	O				
33	Lead and participate in debriefings, AARs, and information sharing.	O				

	Manage Risk	CODE	Position Evaluation Record Number			
			1	2	3	4
34	Determine the effects of fuels, topography, weather factors, or fire behavior on chainsaw operations. Maintain situational awareness and evaluate the need for Lookouts, Communications, Escape Routes, and Safety Zones (LCES) to all chainsaw operations.	W/RX				
35	Ensure a medical response plan is in place for the current or planned chainsaw operation. Demonstrate an understanding of the necessary components of an effective medical response plan and anticipate a potential response to an Incident Within an Incident (IWI).	O				
36	Develop and follow safe cutting area practices when using a swamper during chainsaw operations.	O				
37	Establish and maintain work area and cutting area control.	O				
38	Recognize changes in operational complexity and adjust tactics and plan accordingly.	O				

	Demobilize	CODE	Position Evaluation Record Number			
			1	2	3	4
39	Return equipment and supplies to appropriate units.	I				
40	Complete demobilization checkout process before being released from the incident.	I				
41	Upon demobilization, report status to the home unit including reassignment or estimated time of arrival (ETA) to the home unit.	O				

POSITION EVALUATION RECORD

#

Trainee Information

Printed Name: _____ Virtual Assignment: Yes No
Position on Incident/Event: _____

Evaluator Information

Printed Name: _____ Evaluator Position on Incident/Event: _____
Home Unit/Agency: _____ Evaluator IQCS/IQS #: _____
Home Unit /Agency Address and Phone Number: _____

Incident/Event Information

Incident/Event Name: _____ Reference (Incident Number/Fire Code): _____
Duration: _____
Location (include Geographic Area, Agency, and State): _____
Incident Kind: Wildfire Prescribed Fire All Hazard Other (specify): _____
Management Type: Type 5 Type 4 Type 3 Type 2 Type 1 Complex Area Command
OR Prescribed Fire Complexity Level: Low Moderate High
FBPS Fuel Model: Grass Brush Timber Slash

Evaluator's Recommendation (Initial only one line as appropriate)

- _____ 1) The trainee meets or exceeds satisfactory performance of all tasks under my supervision and/or on a prior trainee experience, as documented on position evaluation records. I have completed the final evaluator's verification section and recommend the trainee be considered for agency certification.
- _____ 2) The tasks indicated on the evaluation table have been performed under my supervision. However, either opportunities were not available for all tasks to be performed and evaluated on this assignment or prior position evaluation records, or the trainee did not meet satisfactory performance on at least one task and needs additional evaluation.
- _____ 3) The trainee does not display satisfactory performance of the tasks for the position and additional training, guidance, and/or experience are recommended prior to another training assignment.

Remarks on Individual Performance (Use additional sheets as necessary)

Trainee's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Evaluator's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Evaluator's Relevant Qualification (or agency certification): _____

Evaluator's Analysis Diagrams, Evaluation Record # _____

Tree 1	Tree 2	Tree 3
Species:	Species:	Species:
DBH:	DBH:	DBH:
Height:	Height:	Height:
% Slope:	% Slope:	% Slope:
Feet from Center of Lay:	Feet from Center of Lay:	Feet from Center of Lay:
Condition:	Condition:	Condition:

Analysis diagram should include the following: intended lay versus actual lay, number of feet of calculated lean (CL), numbering/sequence of cuts, position/amount of hinge wood (HW), stump shot (SS), undercut (UC), backcut (BC), use of compound cuts (CC), and wedge location.

Tree 1 Comments

Tree 2 Comments

Tree 3 Comments

POSITION EVALUATION RECORD

#

Trainee Information

Printed Name: _____ Virtual Assignment: Yes No
Position on Incident/Event: _____

Evaluator Information

Printed Name: _____ Evaluator Position on Incident/Event: _____
Home Unit/Agency: _____ Evaluator IQCS/IQS #: _____
Home Unit /Agency Address and Phone Number: _____

Incident/Event Information

Incident/Event Name: _____ Reference (Incident Number/Fire Code): _____
Duration: _____
Location (include Geographic Area, Agency, and State): _____
Incident Kind: Wildfire Prescribed Fire All Hazard Other (specify): _____
Management Type: Type 5 Type 4 Type 3 Type 2 Type 1 Complex Area Command
OR Prescribed Fire Complexity Level: Low Moderate High
FBPS Fuel Model: Grass Brush Timber Slash

Evaluator's Recommendation (Initial only one line as appropriate)

- _____ 1) The trainee meets or exceeds satisfactory performance of all tasks under my supervision and/or on a prior trainee experience, as documented on position evaluation records. I have completed the final evaluator's verification section and recommend the trainee be considered for agency certification.
- _____ 2) The tasks indicated on the evaluation table have been performed under my supervision. However, either opportunities were not available for all tasks to be performed and evaluated on this assignment or prior position evaluation records, or the trainee did not meet satisfactory performance on at least one task and needs additional evaluation.
- _____ 3) The trainee does not display satisfactory performance of the tasks for the position and additional training, guidance, and/or experience are recommended prior to another training assignment.

Remarks on Individual Performance (Use additional sheets as necessary)

Trainee's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Evaluator's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Evaluator's Relevant Qualification (or agency certification): _____

Evaluator's Analysis Diagrams, Evaluation Record # _____

Tree 1	Tree 2	Tree 3
Species:	Species:	Species:
DBH:	DBH:	DBH:
Height:	Height:	Height:
% Slope:	% Slope:	% Slope:
Feet from Center of Lay:	Feet from Center of Lay:	Feet from Center of Lay:
Condition:	Condition:	Condition:

Analysis diagram should include the following: intended lay versus actual lay, number of feet of calculated lean (CL), numbering/sequence of cuts, position/amount of hinge wood (HW), stump shot (SS), undercut (UC), backcut (BC), use of compound cuts (CC), and wedge location.

Tree 1 Comments

Tree 2 Comments

Tree 3 Comments

POSITION EVALUATION RECORD

#

Trainee Information

Printed Name: _____ Virtual Assignment: Yes No
Position on Incident/Event: _____

Evaluator Information

Printed Name: _____ Evaluator Position on Incident/Event: _____
Home Unit/Agency: _____ Evaluator IQCS/IQS #: _____
Home Unit /Agency Address and Phone Number: _____

Incident/Event Information

Incident/Event Name: _____ Reference (Incident Number/Fire Code): _____
Duration: _____
Location (include Geographic Area, Agency, and State): _____
Incident Kind: Wildfire Prescribed Fire All Hazard Other (specify): _____
Management Type: Type 5 Type 4 Type 3 Type 2 Type 1 Complex Area Command
OR Prescribed Fire Complexity Level: Low Moderate High
FBPS Fuel Model: Grass Brush Timber Slash

Evaluator's Recommendation (Initial only one line as appropriate)

- _____ 1) The trainee meets or exceeds satisfactory performance of all tasks under my supervision and/or on a prior trainee experience, as documented on position evaluation records. I have completed the final evaluator's verification section and recommend the trainee be considered for agency certification.
- _____ 2) The tasks indicated on the evaluation table have been performed under my supervision. However, either opportunities were not available for all tasks to be performed and evaluated on this assignment or prior position evaluation records, or the trainee did not meet satisfactory performance on at least one task and needs additional evaluation.
- _____ 3) The trainee does not display satisfactory performance of the tasks for the position and additional training, guidance, and/or experience are recommended prior to another training assignment.
-

Remarks on Individual Performance (Use additional sheets as necessary)

Trainee's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Evaluator's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Evaluator's Relevant Qualification (or agency certification): _____

Evaluator's Analysis Diagrams, Evaluation Record # _____

Tree 1	Tree 2	Tree 3
Species:	Species:	Species:
DBH:	DBH:	DBH:
Height:	Height:	Height:
% Slope:	% Slope:	% Slope:
Feet from Center of Lay:	Feet from Center of Lay:	Feet from Center of Lay:
Condition:	Condition:	Condition:

Analysis diagram should include the following: intended lay versus actual lay, number of feet of calculated lean (CL), numbering/sequence of cuts, position/amount of hinge wood (HW), stump shot (SS), undercut (UC), backcut (BC), use of compound cuts (CC), and wedge location.

Tree 1 Comments

Tree 2 Comments

Tree 3 Comments