Non-Credit Career Pathway Course

WILDLAND FIREFIGHTER TRAINING

BISMARCK STATE COLLEGE | North Dakota's Polytechnic Institution
Continuing Education & TrainND



HANDS-ON LEARNING.
WORKFORCE READY.

BSC's non-credit Firefighter Type 2 (FFT2) training will prepare students to serve on a hand crew, engine crew, or helitack crew, performing fire suppression and fuels management duties in adverse climate, fuel, and terrain conditions.

If you enjoy working in the outdoors and have an interest in firefighting, the Wildland Firefighter training is a rewarding career option. This certificate program can lead into a career as a wildland firefighter with Federal and State land managing agencies and private contracting businesses. It will provide you with the skills and knowledge necessary for the entry-level wildland firefighter position. By combining classroom instruction with hands-on training, with an emphasis on field operations and tactics, we will equip you with knowledge required of an entry-level wildland firefighter.

A Certificate of Completion will be provided to students upon successfully completing the Wildland Firefighter training. A successful completion of the training indicates you have met the national standards for wildland fire operations as set by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) resulting in a workforce-ready education with opportunities to work in a variety of agencies including Federal or ND State government or for private contractors.

Wildland firefighters are highly skilled individuals who meet the national and state needs to respond to wildfires, and work to improve conditions of our nation's forests, grasslands, refuges, special management areas, and parks and recreation areas.

According to Federal GS pay rates and rates from the ND Forest Service the starting hourly pay rate for wildland firefighters is approximately $18 to $22 per hour. Most firefighters can expect to have opportunities for overtime and potential hiring incentives. State and Federal agencies in ND employ 20-50 temporary employees in wildland firefighting. The national and state wildland firefighting and fuels management agencies employ over 70,000 people nationwide making it a in-demand occupation.

Program Description

The Wildland Firefighter Type 2 training offered through TrainND Southwest is an industry-led program designed to prepare students to enter the firefighting industry classified as a Firefighter Type 2. Students will be introduced to incident command systems (ICS), human factors in wildland fire service, firefighter training, wildland fire behavior, and national incident management systems (NIMS).

Students will learn the following objectives:

- Introduce human performance factors in high-risk work environments and add this knowledge to your skill set.
- Describe the purpose of the Standard Firefighting Orders, Watch Out Situations, and Lookouts, Communications, Escape Routes, and Safety Zones (LCES).
- Describe and identify NIMS and Incident Command System (ICS) and how they relate to each other.
- Describe the standards, tools and equipment, and various methods used in fireline construction.
- Describe the methods for extinguishing a fire with or without the use of water.
- Demonstrate the ability to construct fireline to required standards using various methods, tools and equipment, and techniques.
- Describe the basic terminology used in wildland fire.
- Identify and discuss key characteristics of the primary wildland fire environment components - fuels, weather, and topography.
- Identify critical fire weather factors that, combined with receptive fuels, may result in extreme fire behavior.
- Recognize how alignment of fuels, weather, and topography can increase the potential for extreme fire behavior.
- Identify and describe the characteristics of communications and information systems, effective communication, incident information, and communication standards and formats.

The following courses complete the Wildland Firefighter training:

- FEMA IS-100.C: Introduction to the Incident Command System, ICS 100 (online)
- FEMA IS-700.B: An Introduction to the National Incident Management System (online)
- NWCG L-180, Human Factors in The Wildland Fire Service (in person)
- NWCG S-130, Firefighter Training (in person)
- NWCG S-190 Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior (in person)

FEMA IS-100.C and FEMA IS-700.B must be completed before in-person training and students must present their completion certificates to the instructor on the first day of in-person training.

Course Commitment

The Wildland Firefighter training is a 45 1/2 hour training to include 32 hours of in-person training, 5 1/2 hours of online training, and an 8-hour field day. Pack test opportunities will be available. Students should be comfortable with manual labor and working outdoors. Basic math skills will be required. Familiarity with essential tools and pieces of equipment may be beneficial.

Duties involve fieldwork requiring physical performance calling for above-average endurance and superior conditioning. These duties may include an occasional demand for extraordinarily strenuous activities in emergencies under adverse environmental conditions and over extended periods of time. Requirements include running, walking, climbing, jumping, twisting, bending, and lifting more than 50 pounds; the pace of work typically is set by the emergency situation. Job applicants will be required to pass a drug screen.

Course Investment

The $35 tuition includes all classroom materials and equipment use. The following expenses are the financial responsibility of the student: lodging and travel, clothes suitable to work in outdoor conditions, a computer or tablet for online learning, and a notebook along with a pen/pencil. Special rates are available at the Baymont or Ramada Inn for students enrolled in the BSC Firefighter Type 2 training.

Partnering agencies include the US Fish & Wildlife, USDA, National Park Service, ND Emergency Management, ND Forest Service, The Nature Conservancy, the USDA Forest Service (et al., Dakota Prairie Grassland), and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Wildland Firefighter training is a short-term, non-credit program; therefore, TrainND Southwest does not offer financial aid or tuition assistance. Students may qualify for funding from state and federal agencies. Contact us by email at bsc.training@bismarckstate.edu or by calling us at (701) 224-5600 to learn more.

Course Schedule and Size

In-person training on the BSC Campus meets Friday, Saturday, and Sunday beginning Friday, April 9, 2027, ending Sunday, April 18:

- Friday, April 9, 6 PM to 10 PM
- Saturday, April 10, 8 AM to 5 PM
- Sunday, April 11, 8 AM to 5 PM
- Friday, April 16, 6 PM to 10 PM
- Saturday, April 17, 8 AM to 5 PM
- Sunday, April 18, 8 AM to 5 PM (Field Day)

The program is limited to 24 students. Enrollment is based on a first-come, first-served basis. Waiting lists are established once classes have met maximum enrollment.

trainND SOUTHWEST

Powered by: Bismarck State College

Course Prerequisites

The following is required for course registration:

- Must be at least 18 years old with a valid driver's license
- Be able to read, write, and speak English well enough to speak with co-workers and the public, respond to official inquiries, and make entries on reports and records
- A computer or tablet for online learning
- Complete the following online classes and present completion certificates to the instructor on the first day of in-person training:
  - FEMA IS-100.C
    - https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-100.c&lang=en
  - FEMA IS-700.B
    - https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-700.b&lang=en

Registration Requirements

- Register online at registeratbsc.com or in-person at Bismarck State College National Energy Center of Excellence, 1200 Schafer Street, 1st Floor, Room 107.
- Students will need a FEMA student identification system ID to access the online FEMA trainings. The link to creating an account is: https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid/register
- Students are expected to begin online trainings upon registration and must present the completion certificate to the instructor on the first day of in-person training.
- **Registration closes April 2, 2027.**

Refund Policy

Students must contact the BSC Continuing Education office at least 10 business days prior to the course start date to request a refund at (701) 224-5600. A $10 processing fee will be deducted from the amount refunded. If a student cancels less than 10 business days prior to the start of the course, the entire registration fee is forfeited. Full refunds are guaranteed if BSC Continuing Education cancels a course.

All approved refunds are made by mail unless paid with a credit card or electronic check in which case the card or account is credited. Please allow three weeks to process refunds.

Contact Us



In Person
National Energy Center of Excellence
1200 Schafer Street, Room 107, Bismarck
Phone: (701) 224-5600 or (877) 846-9387



Mail
BSC Continuing Education & TrainND
PO Box 5587, Bismarck, ND 58506-5587



Online
BismarckState.edu/WildlandFirefighter

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