



National Advanced Fire & Resource Institute
Managed by the USDA Forest Service

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Date: June 16, 2014

To: Renee Beams
Chair, Geographic Area Training Representatives

Subject: S-590 Advanced Fire Behavior Interpretation Mentoring Program Announcement

In 2005, the S-590, Advanced Fire Behavior Interpretation Steering Committee, with the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) approval, initiated a mentoring program for course nominees.

This S-590 mentoring program announcement for the 2016 course establishes a two-year program in which S-590 candidates will have increased opportunities to gain experience and training in the Fire Behavior Analyst (FBAN) and/or Long Term Analyst (LTAN) duties on incidents. In addition, the mentoring process will enable the geographic areas to assess the readiness of the candidates to attend S-590. Candidates may go out on incidents as: Behave (BHAV) Technical Specialists, Geospatial Analysts (GSAN) or FBAN/ LTAN trainees.

The 2016 S-590 Advanced Fire Behavior Interpretation Course is tentatively scheduled for March 8 – 17, 2016. Finalized session information will be posted on www.nafri.gov and www.nationalfiretraining.net.

S-590 candidates are not required to participate in the program, but are strongly encouraged to do so. Students involved in a mentoring program are better prepared for S-590 and will have a better chance to succeed than those who do not participate.

With approval from their supervisor and local Training Officer, potential S-590 candidates for the 2016 course should contact their [Geographic Area Training Representative \(GATR\)](#) and state their interest in participating in the S590 Mentoring Program. S590 Candidates may also contact the S590 Course Coordinator regarding questions or issues with the mentoring program

Interagency cooperation is critical to ensure the success of this program. Please ensure this information is distributed to all GATR's, all Geographic Area Coordinating Groups (GACGs), Type I and II Incident Commanders, FBANs, LTANs, and potential S-590 candidates.

Nominations for the 2016 course may be submitted any time before November 1, 2015, according to local unit and Geographic Area established nomination procedures to Gary Luce, S-590 Course Coordinator. Gary can be reached at NAFRI by phone at 520-799-8753 or email galuce@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

John Burfiend
Director
National Advanced Fire and Resource Institute

Enclosure: S-590 Candidate Mentor Process Document
S-590 Candidate Mentor Documentation
S-590 Course Announcement and Mentoring Program Announcement Flyer

S-590 CANDIDATE MENTOR PROCESS

To assure an adequate supply of highly qualified Fire Behavior Analyst (FBAN) and Long Term Fire Analyst (LTAN) positions for future wildland fire incident management teams, the following steps must occur:

- Geographic Area Coordinating Groups (GACGs) and Geographic Area Training Representatives (GATRs) must take an active role in the identification, prioritization and nomination of candidates.
- Current Fire Behavior Analysts (FBANs) and Long-Term Fire Analysts (LTANs) must take an active role in the mentoring of identified candidates.
- Provide candidates with meaningful experiences as:
 - Behave (BHAV) Technical Specialists
 - Geospatial Analyst (GSAN)
 - FBAN and/or LTAN trainees

The National Advanced Fire and Resource Institute (NAFRI), GACGs, FBANs and LTANs are responsible for the following:

TASK	WHO	WHEN
1. Issue call letter to GATRs, GACGs and GACCs for potential S-590 candidates.	NAFRI	Spring 2014
2. Identify interested candidates with potential to successfully complete S-590.	GACGs/ GATRs	Ongoing
3. Facilitate mentoring process by assigning S590 candidates to fully qualified FBANs and LTANs.	GACGs/ GATRs	Ongoing
4. Provide meaningful assignments and mentoring to candidates including periodic assessments.	GACCs FBAN/LTAN	Fire Season 2014 & 2015
5. Provide NAFRI with prioritized S-590 nominations list if needed.	GACGs/ GATRs	Through October 2015
6. Send Pre-Course Test to S590 Candidates	NAFRI	November 2015
7. Selection rosters posted to nationalfiretraining.net	NAFRI	December 2015
8. Send Pre-Course Work and begin Web Based Training(WBT) Portion of S-590	NAFRI	December 2015
9. Instructor led Training (ILT) of S-590 course.	NAFRI	March 2016

S-590 Candidate Documentation Form

S-590 Candidate: _____

Mentor: The S-590 candidate may be a trainee FBAN or LTAN in which a taskbook may have been initiated and can be utilized for guidance. If they are assigned to your incident as one of the two technical specialists (BHAV, GSAN) this form has been developed for documenting the assignment and as guidance to focus their preparation for the S590 course. Please expose your Candidate to as many tasks as possible. ***There is a possibility you can have a trainee assigned to your incident that has not taken S390 or S490. If you are ordering trainees, request these S490 skills at a minimum.***

S-590 Candidate: In preparation for the course the following tasks have been identified as important to attain in one or more assignments. Completion of these tasks will not only assist you in understanding the FBAN / LTAN job but will give you the familiarity with the material and expectations of the S590 course.

TASK	Remarks
In-briefing – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend an in-briefing to obtain all pertinent incident information and background data. • Determine incident needs, timeframes, and request process. 	
Data Acquisition – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquire maps – progression, vegetation, previous fire history, etc. • Weather data – determine representative weather station, obtain historic weather • Fire Weather Forecasts – obtain daily forecast, long term forecast 	
Fire Weather – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interact with meteorologist (IMET, GACC, NWS FWO) to determine accuracy, provide feedback, and inform of critical needs for success of the fire. • Analyze historic fire weather files to determine season ending event dates, appropriate fire danger indices and current trends including local weather phenomenon. 	
Fire Behavior Assessment Inputs – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fuels assessment, fuel moistures, fuel changes versus fire behavior, weather forecast verification • Fuel type with slope changes • Live/dead fuel moisture 	
Field Time – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proper use of field time (on foot and in the air). What your job responsibilities are. 	
Use of tools - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When and why to use them • Vectoring • Fire movement and projections over multiple fuel models • Use if possible. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – S490 skills, BehavePlus, STFB, NTFB, FsPro, FFPLUS, others 	
Forecast & Briefings – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist with the development of a written fire behavior forecast. Focus on content - What are the important and relevant points. Division assignments versus fire behavior. • Forecast changes after the IAP is prepared, how to handle this. • Observe Operational Briefings – Involve candidate in the preparation of the briefing. • Attend a Planning Meeting Briefing – assist with the preparation and determination of pertinent information to relay. • Observe Other Briefings – agency administrator, command & general staff, public meetings, information sharing. Involve them in preparation for these. 	
Meetings and Team Interaction – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observe the development of the ICS-215 and subsequent Planning Meeting • Observe other formal and informal team interactions outside of the scheduled meetings. 	
Informal communications - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IC, OPS, Plans, Safety, and others. 	
Documentation – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist in preparation of, review content, importance of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Documentation package. – Fire behavior narrative – Documentation of model assumptions and processes used. 	

Incident Data:

1	Incident Name and Number:	Type of Incident:			
Incident Location:	Acres/Size:	Fuel Type:			
Complexity Type: Area Command 1 2 3 4 5					
S-590 Candidate / Evaluator Data:					
Name:		Qualification:	Phone:		
Agency & Home Unit:		Address:			

Incident Data:

2	Incident Name and Number:	Type of Incident:			
Incident Location:	Acres/Size:	Fuel Type:			
Complexity Type: Area Command 1 2 3 4 5					
S-590 Candidate / Evaluator Data:					
Name:		Qualification:	Phone:		
Agency & Home Unit:		Address:			

Incident Data:

3	Incident Name and Number:	Type of Incident:			
Incident Location:	Acres/Size:	Fuel Type:			
Complexity Type: Area Command 1 2 3 4 5					
S-590 Candidate / Evaluator Data:					
Name:		Qualification:	Phone:		
Agency & Home Unit:		Address:			

Incident Data:

4	Incident Name and Number:	Type of Incident:			
Incident Location:	Acres/Size:	Fuel Type:			
Complexity Type: Area Command 1 2 3 4 5					
S-590 Candidate / Evaluator Data:					
Name:		Qualification:	Phone:		
Agency & Home Unit:		Address:			