



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

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Date: March 29, 2010

Route To: GACG's, ICAC, GACC's, GATR's

Subject: S-590 Advanced Fire Behavior Interpretation

To: Chair, Geographic Area Coordinating Group

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. Students involved in a mentoring program prior to attendance at this national level course are better prepared and have a better chance to succeed than those who do not participate.


This S-590 mentoring program announcement for the 2012 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. Their Mentors will also provide them invaluable insights and knowledge learned through years of experience. In addition, the mentoring process will enable the geographic areas to assess the readiness of the candidates to attend S-590.

An S-590 candidate is not required to obtain two full years in the mentoring program, or participate in the program at all, but they are strongly encouraged to do so. S-590 candidates may submit their nominations for the 2012 course as late as November of 2011, if they meet all course prerequisites. Attendance at S-490, Advanced Fire Behavior Calculations is also strongly encouraged prior to entering the mentoring program to better prepare them for tasks they will be encountering while on assignments. All S-590 candidates will be required to pass a pre-course test prior to final selection into the course.

As outlined on the attached flow process, potential S-590 course candidates are identified by each Geographic Area Coordinating Group (GACG), with the assistance of their Geographic Area Training Representative (GATR), and will submit their nominations through established procedures to the S-590 Course Coordinator. After notification of accepted candidates, the mentoring process is initiated by the GACG by assigning candidates to appropriate FBAN's or LTAN's.

Based on feedback from S-590 students who have completed the mentoring process, there were some identified problems associated with the general understanding and ability within Geographic Areas to provide individuals mentoring assignments and the understanding by FBANs and LTANs of their role in mentoring the S-590 candidates. To ensure the success of this program, it is necessary roles, responsibilities, and procedural requirements be fully understood by all involved individuals. Please ensure this information is distributed to the GATR's, all Geographic Area Coordination Centers, Type I and II Incident Commanders, FBANs, LTANs, and potential S-590 candidates.

Nominations should be submitted according to the established nomination process to Tim Peterson, S-590 Course Coordinator. Tim can be reached at NAFRI by phone 520-799-8757 or email tjpeterson@fs.fed.us.


MERRIE M. JOHNSON
Director

Enclosure:
Cc: GATR's

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 are deemed necessary:

- Geographic Area Coordinating Groups (GACG) take a nationally consistent and active role in the identification, prioritization and nomination of candidates.
- GACG's, Geographic Area Training Representatives (GATR), and Geographic Area Coordination Centers (GACCs) place mentee assignments as a priority to fully utilize the mentoring process.
- Current Fire Behavior Analysts (FBAN) and Long-Term Fire Analysts (LTAN) take an active role in the mentoring of identified candidates.
- Mentoring opportunities should provide candidates with meaningful experiences as Behave (BHAV), FARSITE (FARS), and FSPro (Proposed) Technical Specialists, and as 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. Identify interested candidates with potential to successfully complete S-590.	GACG	Ongoing
2. Issue call letter to GACGs for potential S-590 candidates.	NAFRI	March 2010
3. Provide NAFRI with prioritized S-590 nominations by targeted positions (FBAN and/or LTAN).	GACG/ GATR's	May 2010 & Ongoing
4. NAFRI notification to candidates of prerequisite qualification needs, with a cc to GACG's & GATR's.	NAFRI	
5. Facilitate mentoring process by assigning candidates to appropriate FBANs and LTANs.	GACG	
6. Provide meaningful assignments and mentoring to candidates including periodic assessments.	GACCs FBAN/LTAN	Fire Season 2010 & 2011
7. Reconfirm prioritization of final candidates by position.	GACG	November 2011
8. Send Pre-Course Test and notify GACG's and candidates.	NAFRI	November 2011
9. Final selection of candidates to attend S-590 course.	NAFRI	January 2012
10. Send Pre-Course Work and notify GACG's and candidates.	NAFRI	January 2012
11. Conduct S-590 course.	NAFRI	March 2012