Advanced Wildland Firefighter Academy  
Deadline to Apply: April 10, 2012

The Alaska Advanced Wildland Firefighter Academy is now accepting applications for its 2012 training session May 27-June 10, 2012 in Tok, Alaska.

This academy is designed to increase the level of knowledge and skills of entry level firefighters. The course includes training in the use of portable pumps and water, wildland fire chainsaw use, air operations, basic land navigation, leadership, and safety.

All transportation, lodging and meals will be provided. In cooperation with the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Interior Aleutians Campus and the Community and Technical College, participants can earn up to eight college credits.

Prerequisites:
• Qualified as a wildland firefighter Type 2 (FFT2)
• Satisfactory completion of all pre-course work
• Successful completion of a 2012 arduous fitness test

Information is available at: http://www.nationalfiretraining.net/course_session/show/id/2471.html

For more information, contact course coordinator Alan Martin, Alaska Division of Forestry at 907-451-2604 or alan.martin@alaska.gov

Find Your Future in Wildland Firefighting!
ALASKA ADVANCED FIREFIGHTER ACADEMY
APPLICATION FOR AN INTERVIEW

This application will be scored and rated in the selection process for applicants.
Application Due to Alaska Division of Forestry no later than April 10, 2012
(Course Coordinator: Alan Martin, 3700 Airport Way, Fairbanks, AK 99709, Fax: 907.451-2690)

Name (full name as it appears on gov’t issued photo ID): ____________________________
Primary Phone #: __________________

Additional Contact (Cell, Message, or Pager #): __________________________________

E-Mail Address: __________________________

Mailing Address: ________________________________________________________________

Are you at least 18 years of age? Yes ___ No ___

Do you have a current Red Card rating of Firefighter Type 2 (FFT2)? Yes ___ No ___

Do you have a government issued photo ID? Yes ___ No ___

You will be required to pass a Work Capacity Pack (Arduous) Test before arriving at the academy. Do you understand this test and are you prepared to meet this requirement? Yes ___ No ___

If accepted to attend this Academy you will have to pay a $43 admissions and technology fee to the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Please answer the following questions to the best of your ability. If you need more room, feel free to add additional sheets.

Tell us what experience or qualities you have that makes you well suited to take this academy? __________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

What two things do you routinely do that demonstrates you work hard?
1) __________________________________________
2) __________________________________________

List two examples when you have been successful working with others.
1) __________________________________________
2) __________________________________________

List two examples when you have been successful at learning new skills.
1) __________________________________________
2) __________________________________________

What three qualities do you have that make you a good member of a team?
1) __________________________________________

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2) __________________________________________
3) __________________________________________

What two personal or professional accomplishments are you most proud of?
1) __________________________________________
2) __________________________________________

From the description of this training, which two items are you most excited about?
1) __________________________________________
2) __________________________________________

**You need to ask yourself now, and be prepared to answer to us during the interview, “Are you mentally and physically prepared to commit to this 14 day academy?”**

Give us the names and contacts for two references who are not relatives (we are not obliged to contact references):

___________________________________________    Phone # ___________________
___________________________________________    Phone # ___________________

1 If you are selected for and attend the academy, you will be expected to commit to stay for the full duration of the academy and abide by the rules of conduct. A serious violation of rules will be considered as your decision to leave the academy early without receiving any certificates, earned or unearned, and a “no basis” grade for any included college courses. Additionally, should you chose to leave the academy prior to completion you may jeopardize future firefighting training and opportunities.

A synopsis of the academy – Participants who are not regular employees of the State of Alaska or other cooperating fire agencies will be registered as volunteers. No compensation will be paid for volunteer hours. Participants will arrive the day before the academy begins to be processed and oriented. Participants will arrive having completed all pre-course work assignments. The academy will consist of a closed campus. Participants will remain in designated areas. Sleeping accommodations will be camping, although the State at its sole-discretion may utilize facilities such as barracks when available. Participants will be provided with meals and refreshments. A typical academy day will start with physical fitness training, followed by up to fifteen hours of classroom and/or practical exercise instruction, with meal breaks. Participants are expected to take part in all activities provided. Little personal time will be allotted during the academy. The academy will be hard work, and successful participants will be immersed in a rewarding learning and skill-building experience.

___________________________________________    Phone # ___________________
___________________________________________    Phone # ___________________

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**Academy Description**

This academy is composed of a concentration of National Wildfire Coordinating Group courses and activities designed to increase the level of knowledge and skills of entry level firefighters. This academy will bolster the performance of Type 2 and Type 2IA crews through the development of strong squad bosses and enable newly hired Wildland Fire & Resource Technician Is (WFRTI) to rapidly acclimate into the suppression operations of his/her local area.

The courses have been chosen to cover a full range of subject matter: Knowledge – Firefighter Type 1, Basic Air Operations; Skills – Portable Pumps and Water Use, Wildland Fire Chain Saws, Helicopter Crewmember, Basic Land Navigation; Leadership – Followership to Leadership; and Safety – Look Up, Look Down, Look Around.

In cooperation with the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Interior Aleutians Campus and the Community and Technical College, the academy will be able to offer each student up to eight college credits for their participation.

The Advanced Academy will utilize a special application and interview process for admission.

**Objectives**

The successful participant will:

- Demonstrate the ability to use fireline reference tools to facilitate the communication and decision making processes.
- Describe how to incorporate and maintain open lines of communication with appropriate personnel.
- Demonstrate the ability to apply the standard operating procedures found in the Incident Response Pocket Guide (PMS 461).
- Demonstrate the ability to apply information found in the Fireline Handbook (PMS 410-1).
- Identify seven environmental factors and their respective indicators of hazardous conditions for fire behavior.
- Describe how to use the indicators when implementing the Risk Management Process.
- Select equipment required to maintain a flow of water as required by the incident.
- Install pumps, hose lays, and holding tanks to provide water for use during all phases of the incident.
- Perform required field maintenance on a portable pump.
- List, define, and apply chain saw safety standards as required by OSHA and NWCG member agency manuals, handbooks and directives.
- Incorporate the approved use, maintenance, and function of personal protective equipment (PPE) in wildland fire chain saw applications.
- Identify basic chain saw parts nomenclature, maintenance, tuning, troubleshooting, and safety features.
- Demonstrate field maintenance tasks required for chain saw operation.
- Demonstrate the tactical application of chain saws in brushing, limbing, bucking, and falling for fireline construction and mop up operations.
- Demonstrate a basic understanding of the different functions of Air Operations.
- Demonstrate proficiency in all identified areas of helicopter use to safely achieve efficiency and standardization.
- Demonstrate an understanding of fundamental leadership principles.
- Assess their individual traits and motivation for entering into a leadership role.
- Demonstrate the fundamentals of land navigation, including using maps, compass, clinometer and global positioning system.

**Academy Components and Pre-work Hours to Complete**

To meet NWCG and academic standards in the compressed timeframes scheduled and ensure a quality learning experience it is necessary to complete certain pre-course work assignments before reporting to the class location.

S-131: Pre-course work: IS-700 (FEMA EMI, online): time - approx. 3 hours
S-133: No pre-course work
S-211: No pre-course work
S-212: Pre-course work: - 1 hour
Basic Land Navigation: Pre-course work: complete Basic Land Navigation text (PMS475), time – approx. 12 hours.
S-270 & S-271: Pre-course work: (online at https://www.iat.gov/ )
  - A-101: Aviation Safety .5 hours
  - A-104: Overview of Aircraft Capabilities & Limitations .5 hours
  - A-105: Aviation Life Support Equipment (ALSE) .5 hours
  - A-106: Aviation Mishap Reporting .5 hours
  - A-108: Preflight Checklist & Briefing/Debriefing .5 hours
  - A-110: Aviation Transport of Hazardous Materials as needed to 100%
  - A-113: Crash Survival .5 hours
  - A-116: Aviation Security (extra credit) .5 hours

L-280: Pre-course work – Read Leadership Secrets of Attila the Hun, and answer questions, time – approx. 4 hours.

Total Pre-course work time: approximately 25 hours.

**Target Group**

1. Type 2 hand crew members aspiring to become the strong squad bosses needed to sustain the Division’s Type 2 and Type 2IA Crew Programs.
2. Wildland Fire & Resource Technician I’s desiring to fully and safely participate in the Division of Forestry’s Wildland Fire Suppression Program at their area.
3. Entry wildland firefighters seeking to improve their firefighting skills and knowledge in preparation for the pursuit of a career in wildland fire suppression or natural resource management.
Minimum Instructor Qualifications (by course)

S-131: Lead – qualified single resource boss; Unit – qualified firefighter type 1.
S-133: Lead – qualified single resource boss; Unit – qualified incident commander type 5, or firefighter type 1.
S-211: Instructors must be knowledgeable in the use and maintenance of portable water pumps.
S-212: Lead – qualified faller B (FALB) (agency determined).
S-270: Lead - Must be knowledgeable in the use of aviation resources in wildland fire suppression, agency aviation policy, and Federal Aviation Regulations.
S-271: Lead – qualified helicopter manager (HMGB); Unit – qualified helicopter crewmember (HECM).
L-280: Lead – qualified single resource boss; Unit – have a supervisory qualification in any ICS function (operations or support).
Also see Instructor Certification at the beginning of the Field Manager’s Course Guide.

Academy Prerequisites

Qualified as a wildland firefighter type 2 (FFT2).
Satisfactory completion of pre-course work.
Passed a 2012 arduous fitness test.

Certifications and College Credits

Certificates will be available for the following NWCG courses:

S-131 Firefighter Type 1
S-133 Look Up, Look Down, Look Around
S-211 Portable Pumps and Water Use
S-212 Wildland Fire Chain Saws
S-270 Basic Air Operations
S-271 Helicopter Crewmember
L-280 Followership to Leadership
Basic Land Navigation

College credits are available for the following UAF courses:

FIRE 152 Wildland Firefighter II – 3 credits
FIRE 153 Wildland Firefighter III – 2 credits
FIRE 157 Wildland Fire Air Operations – 3 credits

Academy Level

State