



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Fire Management Program Center
3833 S. Development Avenue
Boise, Idaho 83705

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October 30, 2013

Memorandum

To: Regional Fire Management Officers
Attention: Park Fire Management Officers

From: Branch Chief, Wildland Fire /s/*William Kaage*

Subject: S-420 Course Equivalency

This memo documents the granting of equivalency for the NWCG course “S-420, Command and General Staff” by the National Park Service for its employees who attend the course titled “Intent Into Action, Command & General Staff” (IIAC). The course was developed by the vendor Mission Centered Solutions (MCS).

The course, when delivered by MCS, is also certified by the NWCG Leadership Committee for approved L-480 delivery. As such, an NPS employee attending the IIAC course will receive completion certificates for L-480 *and* S-420. The training will be entered in the Incident Qualifications and Certification System as if the student attended each of the courses independently.

This determination of equivalency adheres to the process and criteria identified in the 2013 *Field Managers Course Guide*.

Specific review has been completed as follows:

1. Evaluation completed in Missoula, MT in March 2012 by a Review Team of Interagency Subject Matter Experts (SME).

The SME Team consisted of:

Randy Skelton, Deputy Fire Staff Officer – Payette National Forest;

USFS Representative (interim) – NWCG Leadership Subcommittee

Ted Mason, USFWS – National Fire Safety Specialist;

NWCG Leadership Subcommittee – Curriculum Management Unit for L-480

Bob Bell, USFS Region 5 – Emergency Operations Coordinator – South Ops;

S-420 Subject Matter Expert

Jim Blankenship, Montana Department of Natural Resources – State Training Officer;

Montana State S-420 Coordinator

Charles “Boo” Walker, Texas Forest Service – Fire Training Coordinator;

S-520 Steering Committee – Co Chair

It was the determination of the Interagency SME group that the IIAC course did meet all of the objectives and intent of the S-420 course as well as the L-480 course. This course was delivered in a five day period with additional time spent on pre-work at the home unit. The current S-420 course is a 38 hour course. The current L-480 course is a 36 hour classroom course.

2. Further review of the IIAC course has been completed by the acting National Training Program Manager. The review consisted of a comparison of course materials and design documents, provided by the vendor, against existing NWCG S-420 course materials. This analysis resulted in a determination that the IIAC course adequately addressed the course and unit objectives contained in the existing S-420 course.

Supporting documentation is on file and available for review at the Fire Management Program Center. Contact Jim Shultz, National Training Program Manager (acting) at jim_shultz@nps.gov for more information.

cc: Mark Koontz, National Program Lead, Wildland Fire Operations, FMPC
Mike Ellsworth, NWCG Training Committee Chair
Renee Beams, Geographic Area Training Representative Chair
Cindy Rose, Administrative Assistant, FMPC