Tips for taking the
Online Wildland Firefighting courses from the National Fire Academy

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You may look at or start or complete the on-line training on your own schedule, but you would still not be certified without an 8 hour field session. You *must* present all online course and individual module certificates when you arrive for your field session.

To become a qualified wildland firefighter, applicants need to complete classes which are approved by the National Wildfire Coordination Group. These classes have also been endorsed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) of the Department of Homeland Security. The purpose of these classes is to assure a standard level of training for competence and safety. **These on-line classes take about 40 hours to complete so getting started early is a good idea.** The on-line classes can be taken at any time, even if you are not currently registered for a "Field Day."

All wildland firefighters must successfully complete the following classes to achieve eligibility to work as entry level wildland firefighters. (Preferably in the following order)

- IS-700 An Introduction to the National Incident Management System
  https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-700.b
- IS-100, Introduction to the Incident Command System
  https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-100.c
- S-190 Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior
  https://apps.usfa.fema.gov/nfacourses/catalog/details?id=10623
- S-130 (Wildland) Firefighter Training (Blended)
  https://apps.usfa.fema.gov/nfacourses/catalog/details?id=10622
- L-180 Human Factors in the Wildland Fire Service
  https://apps.usfa.fema.gov/nfacourses/catalog/details?id=10820
- S-130 (Wildland) Firefighter Training (Field Day) – this is an in-person, one day field training. A list of upcoming scheduled Field Day trainings can be found on the MN DNR Fire Training Calendar or the Minnesota Pheasants Forever fire training website.

Completing these classes and the Work Capacity Test (pack test) means that the student will be eligible to receive a "red card" from an organization or agency which uses qualified wildland firefighters. However, the student must contact the organizations or agencies to receive that "red card." There is no guarantee that organizations or agencies will need new firefighters or add qualified students to their "red card" roster.

Here are some tips for taking these online courses:

1. Register/create the proper Student Identification and User IDs for the courses.

    a. If you have never taken a FEMA Independent Study course before, you will need to obtain a FEMA Student Identification (SID) number. Register for that at: https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid. This SID will be used for the IS-700.A and IS-100.B courses only.

    b. If you have never taken a National Fire Academy Online course, you will need to register and create a User ID for the NFA Online program. You can do that here: https://nfa-hcm03.ns2cloud.com/learning/user/selfRegisterInit.do. Use the "Domain" for NWCG. This User ID will be used for the S-130 and S-190 courses only.

2. Set aside enough time to fully complete each module or you will have to redo the entire module again.   Make sure you are connected to a printer or have the ability to "print to PDF."
    a. Each course is broken up into various modules with a test at the end of each module.
    b. Upon completion of a module "Challenge Review" with a passing grade, you should print your Certificate of Completion for the module.   Also print your certificate of completion for the course when done. [NOTE – Online-records of completion for the modules and courses do not always seem to show up if you go back later, so be prepared to print the first time you see the certificate.]
    c. Feel free to take notes during your courses to review from.

3. For portions of these courses, it is helpful to have a copy of the Incident Response Pocket Guide. A physical copy of this can be obtained from any local DNR forestry office or The Nature Conservancy. Otherwise, you can obtain an electronic copy of it here: https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/pms461
    a. DNR forestry offices: http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/contact/locator.html
    b. The Nature Conservancy: email Matt Graeve: mgraeve@tnc.org

4. If you have any other questions along the way, feel free to email
    a. Matt Graeve: mgraeve@tnc.org
    b. Jason Andersen: jandersen@pheasantsforever.org