



FEMA



National Fire Academy

F0637 – Wildland Urban Interface: Fire-Adapted Communities — Introduction and Leadership, Course I

Version: 1st Edition, 1st Printing, May 2015

Quarter:

ACE Credit: Pending

IACET Continuing Education Units: Pending

Length of Course: 2 Days (16 contact hours)

Prerequisite: None

Curriculum: Fire Prevention: Technical

Training Specialist: Woody Stratton

Instructor:

Instructor email/phone:

Classroom: J-

Meeting Time: 8 AM – 5 PM

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Course Description (Catalog)

F0637 – “Wildland Urban Interface: Fire-Adapted Communities — Introduction and Leadership, Course I.” This two-day course introduces students to the national Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) fire problem and motivates them to initiate action to address the problem within their local community. This course defines the WUI fire problem, identifies the elements of a Fire Adapted Community (FAC) in the Wildland Urban Interface, and illustrates the need for action at the local level.

Student Qualifications (Primary and Secondary Audience)

The target audience for this course includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Fire and emergency service representatives.
- Community leaders/decision-makers.
- Commissioners, elected officials and other local policymakers.
- Code officials: building, planning, etc.
- Environmental groups.
- Land managers and foresters.
- Other key local stakeholders.

Course Scope (Goal)

The goal of the course is to empower students with the ability to create and sustain a fire-adapted community (FAC) located within a wildland urban interface (WUI). Students will learn how to convene a community coalition that will suggest the use of broad-based fire mitigation strategies, resulting in the development of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).

Students should have an understanding of how wildland fire is impacting both the nation and their local community. They should also have knowledge of partners that their agency is currently working with to address fire risk in the local WUI environment.

Course Objectives (Course Learning Outcomes – TLOs)

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to accomplish the following:

- Articulate the benefits of developing a fire-adapted community (FAC) within the wildland urban interface (WUI).
- Develop a local community coalition to facilitate creation of a fire-adapted community (FAC) in the wildland urban interface (WUI).
- Construct an effective wildland urban interface (WUI) risk profile for their community.
- Develop a draft action plan to initiate development of a fire-adapted community (FAC).

Course Delivery Method

The National Fire Academy (NFA) offers specialized training courses and advanced management programs of national impact in an academic classroom environment [on campus at the National Emergency Training Center \(NETC\) in Emmitsburg, Maryland](#) and through their State, local, and tribal training partners. This classroom course is designed for the national level fire service officer from State and local fire service organizations. All course materials are designed for interactive classroom environments, in either paper notebook or electronic formats.

Course Schedule

The purpose of the course schedule is to give you, at a glance, the required preparation, activities, and evaluation components of your course.

DAY 1	DAY 2
Introduction, Welcome and Administrative	Unit 3: Risk Assessment
<i>Break</i>	<i>Break</i>
Unit 1: A Call to Action Activity 1.1: Understanding Regional Wildland Fire Management Issues	Activity 3.1: Wildland Urban Interface Hazard Attributes Unit 3: Risk Assessment (cont'd)
<i>Break</i>	<i>Break</i>
Unit 1: A Call to Action (cont'd)	Activity 3.2: Basics of a Wildland Urban Interface Fire Risk Assessment Unit 3: Risk Assessment (cont'd) Activity 3.3: Sources of Data to Support a Wildland Urban Interface Fire Risk Assessment
<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Lunch</i>
Activity 1.2: A Call to Local Action for a Fire-Adapted Community Unit 2: Fire-Adapted Community Leadership	Unit 3: Risk Assessment (cont'd) Unit 4: Creating an Action Plan
<i>Break</i>	<i>Break</i>
Unit 2: Fire-Adapted Community Leadership (cont'd) Activity 2.1: Identifying Local Champions for a Fire-Adapted Community Activity 2.2: Identifying the Political Issues Surrounding the Local Wildland Fire Problem Activity 2.3: Building a Fire-Adapted Community Coalition	Unit 4: Creating an Action Plan (cont'd) Activity 4.1: Creating an Action Plan to Initiate Creation of a Fire-Adapted Community Administer Exam Course Evaluation

Day 1 Homework:
Read Lakeshore Case Study.

Course Resources (Instructional Materials)

In order to be fully prepared, obtain a copy of the required textbooks and other instructional materials prior to the first day of class.

Required Readings

The student must complete required readings during the course to be able to thoughtfully participate in discussions and activities.

None.

Suggested Reading/Resources

Suggested readings and resources are not evaluated, but may enhance the student's understanding, serve as additional sources for citation and promote discussion of course material.

None.

Required Resources (Course Textbook)

Student Manual.

Supplemental Resources (Supplemental Course Textbook)

None.

Grading Methodology (Evaluation Procedures)

Each two-day course will be assessed by a 25-question examination (100 points).

The required performance to successfully complete the course is attained by completing the class with a letter grade of a "C" or higher.

Letter Grade	Point Range
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
F	69 or lower

Required Reading Assignments

Student completion of reading assignments will be done via evaluation of their class participation and will not be a separately graded activity.

Suggested Readings

Suggested readings are not evaluated, but may enhance the student's understanding and promote discussion of course material.

Course Outline

Unit 1: A Call to Action (Day 1)

Objectives

Terminal Objective

The students will be able to:

- 1.1 Articulate the benefits of developing a fire-adapted community (FAC) within the wildland urban interface (WUI).

Enabling Objectives

The students will be able to:

- 1.1 Characterize the WUI fire problem.
- 1.2 Identify the elements of an FAC.
- 1.3 Describe what is needed to make their local jurisdiction an FAC in the WUI.
- 1.4 Describe how to initiate a local "call for action."

Unit 2: Fire-Adapted Community Leadership (Day 1)

Objectives

Terminal Objective

The students will be able to:

- 2.1 Develop a local community coalition to facilitate creation of a fire-adapted community (FAC) in the wildland urban interface (WUI).

Enabling Objectives

The students will be able to:

- 2.1 Describe the values and characteristic behaviors of champions.
- 2.2 Explain the political issues that often surround the wildland fire problem in a community.
- 2.3 Define how to facilitate building partnerships and coalitions to support creation of an FAC.
- 2.4 Construct a list of stakeholders/partners that can help facilitate creation of an FAC.

Unit 3: Risk Assessment (Day 2)

Objectives

Terminal Objective

The students will be able to:

- 3.1 Construct an effective wildland urban interface (WUI) risk profile for their community.

Enabling Objectives

The students will be able to:

- 3.1 Explain the purpose of a community risk assessment.
- 3.2 Describe the elements of a WUI fire risk assessment.
- 3.3 Classify levels of risk analysis.
- 3.4 Determine sources of data to support a WUI fire risk assessment.
- 3.5 Review a draft risk assessment template to support completion of a local WUI fire risk assessment.

Unit 4: Creating an Action Plan (Day 2)

Objectives

Terminal Objective

The students will be able to:

- 4.1 Develop a draft action plan to initiate development of a fire-adapted community (FAC).

Enabling Objectives

The students will be able to:

- 4.1 Describe the purpose of an action plan.
- 4.2 Identify the key elements of an action plan to initiate creation of an FAC.

Policies

Class Attendance and Cancellation Policy

Attendance

- You are required to attend all sessions of the course. If you do not, you may not receive a certificate, and your stipend may be denied.
- If you need to depart campus early and miss any portion of the course and/or graduation, you must make the request in writing to the NFA training specialist. The training specialist, in collaboration with the superintendent, may waive the attendance requirement in order to accommodate you with extraordinary circumstances as long as you complete all course requirements. If you receive approval for departing early, you must forward the approval to the Admissions Office so your stipend reimbursement is not limited.

Student Substitutions

Substitutions for NFA courses are made from waiting lists; your fire department can't send someone in your place.

Cancellations or No-Shows

NFA's mission for delivery of courses is impaired significantly by cancellations and no-shows. It is very difficult and costly to recruit students at the last minute. Currently there is a two-year ban on student attendance for students who are no-shows or cancel within 30 days of the course start

date without a valid reason. If you receive such a restriction, your supervisor needs to send a letter to our Admissions Office explaining the cancellation/no-show.

Course Failure

If you fail an on-campus course, you will not be issued a stipend for that course. You can reapply for the failed course or any other NFA course and go through the random selection process. You don't have to successfully complete the failed course before attending another NFA course.

Student Code of Conduct Policy

Students, instructors and staff are expected to treat each other with respect at all times. Inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated and may result in removal from campus and denial of stipends.

Writing Expectations

Student writing will conform to the generally accepted academic standards for college papers. Papers will reflect the original work of the student and give appropriate credit through citations for ideas belonging to other authors, publications or organizations. Student written work should be free of grammatical and syntax errors, free of profanity or obscene language or ideas, and reflect critical thinking related to the course subject matter.

Citation and Reference Style

Attention Please: Students will follow the APA, Sixth Edition as the sole citation and reference style used in written work submitted as part of coursework to NFA. Assignments completed in a narrative essay, composition format, abstract, and discussion posts must follow the citation style cited in the APA, Sixth Edition.

Late Assignments

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date (11:59 p.m. EDT/EST) and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, you must manage competing demands on your time. Discussion board postings submitted within 3 days after the submission deadline will receive up to a 20% deduction. Those that do not submit their discussion board postings within this timeline will receive a "0" grade for the week. Final assignment papers will not be accepted after the deadline. Any paper submitted after the deadline will receive a "0" grade for that assignment.

Netiquette

Online learning promotes the advancement of knowledge through positive and constructive debate – both inside and outside the classroom. Forums on the Internet, however, can occasionally degenerate into needless insults and "flaming." Such activity and the loss of good manners are not acceptable in a professional learning setting – basic academic rules of good

behavior and proper “Netiquette” must persist. Remember that you are in a place for the rewards and excitement of learning which does not include descent to personal attacks or student attempts to stifle the forum of others.

- **Technology Limitations.** While you should feel free to explore the full-range of creative composition in your formal papers, keep e-mail layouts simple. The NFA Online classroom may not fully support MIME or HTML encoded messages, which means that bold face, italics, underlining, and a variety of color-coding or other visual effects will not translate in your e-mail messages.
- **Humor Note.** Despite the best of intentions, jokes and especially satire can easily get lost or taken seriously. If you feel the need for humor, you may wish to add “emoticons” to help alert your readers: ;-), :), ☺ .

Disclaimer Statement

Course content may vary from the outline to meet the needs of this particular group.

Grading

Please review the above grading methodology that explains how grades will be awarded. Students who do not complete the entire course will be awarded an Incomplete (I) grade. In accordance with National Fire Academy academic policies, an Incomplete (I) grade must be removed by the end of the next semester following the course, or it automatically becomes a Failing (F) grade.

If you fail an on-campus course, you will not be issued a stipend for that course. You can reapply for the failed course or any other NFA course and go through the random selection process. You don't have to successfully complete the failed course before attending another NFA course.

http://www.usfa.fema.gov/training/nfa/admissions/student_policies_campus_information.html

Academic Honesty

Students are expected to exhibit exemplary ethical behavior and conduct as part of the NFA community and society as a whole. Acts of academic dishonesty including cheating, plagiarism, deliberate falsification, and other unethical behaviors will not be tolerated.

Students are expected to report academic misconduct when they witness a violation. All cases of academic misconduct shall be reported by the instructor to the Training Specialist.

If a student is found to have engaged in misconduct and the allegations are upheld, the penalties may include, but are not limited to one or a combination of the following:

- expulsion,
- withholding of stipend or forfeiture of stipend paid,

- exclusion from future classes for a specified period; depending on the severity it could range from 1-10 years, and/or
- forfeiture of certificate for course(s) enrolled in at NETC.

Refer to NFA-specific Standard Operating Procedure 700.1 – *Academic Code of Conduct and Ethics* for more information.