



National Fire Academy

**F0610 – Wildland Urban Interface Firefighting for the Structural Company Officer
Version: 2nd Edition, 4th Printing, April 2017**

Quarter:

ACE Credit: In the lower division baccalaureate/associate degree category, one semester hour in fire science or emergency management.

IACET Continuing Education Units: 1.4

Length of Course: 2 Days (13 hr., 30 min. contact hours)

Prerequisite: None

**Curriculum: Incident Management and Wildland Urban Interface
Training Specialist: Richard Sexton**

Instructor:

Instructor email/phone:

Classroom: J-

Meeting Time: 8 AM – 5 PM

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Course Description (Catalog)

F0610 – “Wildland Urban Interface Firefighting for the Structural Company Officer.” This two-day course identifies operational activities and safety concerns for structural company officers assigned to a Wildland/Wildland Urban Interface incident. Topics covered include Introduction to Wildland/Wildland Urban Interface firefighting, interface environment, wildland fire behavior, command and control issues of wildland/urban interface firefighting, and tactics.

Student Qualifications (Primary and Secondary Audience)

The target audience for the “Wildland Urban Interface Firefighting for the Structural Company Officer” (WUIFSCO) course is structural COs or Chief Officers who may be in command of a single resource, Strike Team or Task Force at the scene of a WUI incident. This course may also be appropriate for those structural firefighters participating under the command of a structural CO during a WUI incident.

Course Scope (Goal)

As a responder to a Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) incident, the structural Company Officer (CO) may be placed in one of many different roles, such as initial Incident Commander (IC), Operations Section Chief (OSC), Engine Boss or Strike Team Leader/Task Force Leader or other roles in support of the incident. This course identifies the operational activities and safety considerations for the structural CO assigned to a WUI incident. This course assumes that the student has a basic knowledge of wildland firefighting, and reinforces and expands that knowledge to include the WUI. Topics include the history of WUI incidents, the intricacies of the WUI, the interface environment, fire behavior, command issues, safety, and the related strategic and tactical options that compare and contrast with structural firefighting.

The scope of this course is to identify the various operational activities and safety considerations for the structural CO assigned to a WUI incident.

Course Objectives (Course Learning Outcomes – TLOs)

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

- Evaluate the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) environment and how it affects their assignment in a WUI incident in accordance with standards.
- Evaluate the impact of fire behavior on the safety of operations at a Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) incident.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of operations and safety issues at a Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) incident.
- Recognize and mitigate the many hazards common to working in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).
- Operate safely and effectively at a Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) incident and reduce home and property loss.

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, tribal, and US territories training partners. 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: Command and Control Issues of the Wildland Urban Interface (cont'd)
<i>Break</i>	<i>Break</i>
Unit 1: Wildland Urban Interface Environment	Unit 3: Command and Control Issues of the Wildland Urban Interface (cont'd) Activity 3.1: Initial Attack Command
<i>Break</i>	<i>Break</i>
Unit 1: Wildland Urban Interface Environment (cont'd) Activity 1.1: Experiences with Wildland and Wildland Urban Interface Incidents Unit 2: Wildland Fire Behavior	Unit 4: Safety Activity 4.1: The 18 Watch Out Situations
<i>Lunch Break</i>	<i>Lunch Break</i>
Unit 2: Wildland Fire Behavior (cont'd)	Unit 4: Safety (cont'd) Unit 5: Strategic and Tactical Operations Activity 5.1: Evacuation and Rescue
<i>Break</i>	<i>Break</i>
Unit 2: Wildland Fire Behavior (cont'd) Unit 3: Command and Control Issues of the Wildland Urban Interface	Unit 5: Strategic and Tactical Operations (cont'd) Activity 5.2: Water Supplies Unit 5: Strategic and Tactical Operations (cont'd)

Note: Times listed reflect approximate instructional time blocks and may be adjusted to meet individual course preferences.

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 student will be assessed on the last day of class with one of two versions of the final examination. Each written evaluation will consist of 30 multiple choice questions. Students will each need to earn at least a score of 70 percent on the final examination to pass the course.

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

EXAMINATION ADMINISTRATION PROCEDURES

Students will be given exams at the end of the class, and only the instructor will grade the exams. While the exams are being graded by the instructor, students will be asked to complete end-of-course evaluations.

Exams are to be completed individually and not as a group or a group activity, unless specifically directed within the instructor guide for the specific course. Students should use pencils to complete answer sheets if bubble sheets and a scoring key overlay are being used.

There should only be one answer for any given question marked by the student. A question with multiple answers is considered incorrect. Please mark number of incorrect answers on completed exam sheets, record score (percentage), and mark the appropriate letter grade.

Transfer the letter grades to the corresponding student name on the course roster.

If a student does not obtain a passing grade on the first attempt, the instructor will provide remediation¹ prior to a retest. Students who do not pass the first exam will be allowed to take one retest of a new exam before departing from the class. A second failure will result in a grade of “F” being recorded on the grade roster.

Once all exams have been graded, instructors should review the exam as a group.

In the event of unusual events (storm, fire response, family emergency) or early departure, the host agency or state representative may be asked to proctor the exam at a later date. The instructor is responsible to notify the Training Specialist as soon as practical of the situation and name of person responsible for the exams and testing process.

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

Introduction (Day 1)

Objectives

None.

Unit 1: Wildland Urban Interface Environment (Day 1)

Objectives

Terminal Objective

The students will be able to:

- 1.1 Evaluate the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) environment and how it affects their assignment in a WUI incident in accordance with standards.

Enabling Objectives

The students will be able to:

- 1.1 Describe the complex situations and considerations in the wildland fire environment.
- 1.2 Anticipate communications considerations, complex logistical issues and equipment considerations.
- 1.3 Recognize the different viewpoints of various agencies regarding WUI incidents.
- 1.4 Describe national standards that have an impact on WUI incidents.

Unit 2: Wildland Fire Behavior (Day 1)

Objectives

Terminal Objective

The students will be able to:

- 2.1 Evaluate the impact of fire behavior on the safety of operations at a Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) incident.

Enabling Objectives

The students will be able to:

- 2.1 Analyze the impact of fuel considerations on WUI incidents.
- 2.2 Analyze the impact of topography on WUI incidents.
- 2.3 Analyze the impact of weather on WUI incidents.
- 2.4 Recognize situations that indicate problem or extreme wildland fire behavior.
- 2.5 Describe how wildfire ignites homes and other structures.

Unit 3: Command and Control Issues of the Wildland Urban Interface (Day 1)

Objectives

Terminal Objective

The students will be able to:

- 3.1 Evaluate the effectiveness of operations and safety issues at a Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) incident.

Enabling Objectives

The students will be able to:

- 3.1 Determine operational responsibilities of command and control at the Company Officer (CO) level.
- 3.2 Identify operational responsibilities in initial attack, extended attack, and for long duration incidents.
- 3.3 Describe the system of equipment and personnel typing used in wildland firefighting.

Unit 4: Safety (Day 2)

Objectives

Terminal Objective

The students will be able to:

- 4.1 Recognize and mitigate the many hazards common to working in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).

Enabling Objectives

The students will be able to:

- 4.1 Understand a risk versus benefit approach for operations in the WUI.
- 4.2 Understand the safety considerations of the 10 Standard Firefighting Orders.
- 4.3 Apply the safety considerations of the “18 Watch Out Situations.”
- 4.4 Explain the safety considerations of Lookouts, Communications, Escape routes and Safety zones (LCES).
- 4.5 Conduct an incident size-up, including safety considerations.

Unit 5: Strategic and Tactical Operations (Day 2)

Objectives

Terminal Objective

The students will be able to:

- 5.1 Operate safely and effectively at a Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) incident and reduce home and property loss.

Enabling Objectives

The students will be able to:

- 5.1 Describe typical strategies, tactics, tasks and issues involved when covering a fire station other than their own.
- 5.2 Describe typical strategies, tactics, tasks and issues involved when participating in evacuation, rescue and WUI tactics.
- 5.3 Describe typical strategies, tactics, tasks and issues involved when establishing and operating water supply operations.
- 5.4 Describe typical strategies, tactics, tasks and issues involved when performing structural and site preparation in advance of an eminent wildland fire.
- 5.5 Describe typical strategies, tactics, tasks and issues involved when performing structural protection.
- 5.6 Describe typical strategies, tactics, tasks and issues involved when patrolling and performing mop-up operations.
- 5.7 Express the emphasis of preparation before a wildfire begins.

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.
- If you need to depart the training facility early and miss any portion of the course, you must make the request in writing to the sponsoring agency (e.g., State training director, etc.). The State training director may waive the attendance requirement in order to accommodate you with extraordinary circumstances as long as you complete all course requirements.

Course Failure

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.

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

All assignments must be turned in by the established deadline. Late submissions could result in a 10 percent decrease in grade.

Disclaimer Statement

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

Grading

Please review the following rubrics that explain 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.

https://www.usfa.fema.gov/training/nfa/admissions/student_policies.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 State training director or host agency and to the NFA 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,
- 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.