

Wisconsin Prescribed Fire Council's Participation Classifications

APPRENTICE

Description: This individual has insufficient prescribed burning training or experience to qualify for the Crew Member classification.

Training Requirements: An Apprentice must be given instructions on-site the day of the burn including the regular crew briefing, and at least the following specific instructions:

1. Chain of command
2. Use of personal protective equipment
3. Use of assigned tools or equipment
4. Escape route and safety zone

An Apprentice must be directly supervised during the burn by an experienced individual qualified as a Crew Member or higher.

CREW MEMBER

Description: This individual has the basic knowledge, gained from formal training and experience, to participate in prescribed burns and follow directions from more experienced personnel. Duties include ignition, control, mop-up, suppression, monitoring, etc. under the direction of a Squad Boss.

Training Requirements: To be qualified as a Crew Member, an individual must:

1. Have attended a one day training course covering the learning objectives listed in Attachment 1.
2. Have participated in two burns, or have passed S130, S190, and I-100.

SQUAD/LINE BOSS

Description: An individual in the Squad Boss classification (sometimes referred to as Line Boss) directs a portion of the prescribed burn crew, usually 3-6 Crew Members. Squad Bosses may direct holding, ignition, and lookout (spotter) functions. Squad Bosses are expected to be able to take appropriate action if spot fires occur in their portion of the line, directing the work of their assigned personnel and directly communicating with the fire boss.

Training Requirements:

1. Qualification as a Crew Member.
2. Participation in at least 5 prescribed burns within the past three years as a trained Crew Member.
3. Two day training course with content, examples and photos geared to Wisconsin fuels and terrain. The course should meet the requirements of Advanced Firefighter Training (S131) or its equivalent.

BURN BOSS

Description: This person takes the lead in planning and implementing a burn, including all phases of planning, preparation, operations, safety and evaluation. The Burn Boss is the final authority on a burn.

Training Requirements: To be qualified as a Burn Boss an individual must meet the following training and experience requirements:

1. Qualification as Crew Member
2. Qualification as Squad Boss
3. Serve as a Squad Boss on at least 10 burns
4. Serve as an apprentice Burn Boss on at least three fires of comparable complexity *
5. Take the Wisconsin Rx Fire Council workshop on Burn Boss or equivalent, or meet NWCG Burn Boss requirements. **

* An apprentice burn is when an experienced fire leader allows the individual apprenticing to run all capacities of the prescribed fire from start to finish, while offering coaching, constructive criticism and mentoring. The burns that an individual serves as an apprentice on should be comparable in complexity to the burns that they will be leading as burn bosses. For example, if the apprentice burns are in small flat grassland units, then one can boss burns in small, flat, grass land units. If the apprentice burns are served on large woodland units with high fuel loading and topography then the individual may boss burns similar.

** The Wisconsin Rx Fire Council Training Committee is working on developing these courses. The Burn Plan Writing workshop will teach individuals how to use the proposed burn plan and will comprise of an indoor workshop to provide training. The Workshop to provide Burn Boss Training will also be developed. The Burn Plan Writing workshop will be offered for the first time in January 2006. The Burn Boss workshop will be offered for the first time in Fall of 2006. Skills check lists will be developed for both courses so an alternate course can be compared for equivalency.