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Date: May 26, 2026

To: Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee
State Board of Fire Services

From: Katy Luetke Porter, Deputy State Fire Marshal
Chris Fowler, Division Chief

SUBJECT/AGENDA ACTION ITEM:

Recommended Actions:

Motion to approve:

Internal SFT Updates (Category 1A)

- (L-280, S-131, S-200, S-211, S-215, S-236, S-270, S-300, S-358, S-404, S-430, S-440)

SME and/or Steering Committee Review (Category 2, 3, and 4B)

- (S-130, S-190, S-231, S-203, S-230, S-271, S-390, S-223, S-290, S-339 AR, S-430AR)

Discontinue from SFT Catalog (Category 1B)

- (S-244, S-245, S-355, S-445, S-339)

Background Information:

State Fire Training (SFT) maintains a catalog of National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) courses to ensure California's wildland fire personnel receive training aligned with national standards. The SFT catalog currently includes 29 NWCG courses spanning leadership development, incident management, and specialized operations.

A comprehensive review and analysis was conducted to compare SFT's course versions and delivery methods with the current NWCG catalog, which is available on the [Wildfire Learning Portal](#). This review identified that several courses in the SFT catalog have not been updated to reflect recent NWCG revisions, potentially affecting training alignment, certification standards, and interagency compatibility.

Between 2020 and the present, SFT has delivered these courses a total of 1,591 times, with the highest volume courses being S-290 (261 deliveries), S-130 (208 deliveries), S-212 (164 deliveries), S-190 (158 deliveries), and S-231 (151 deliveries).

The NWCG is 4 years into a five-year major update. This includes a shift from classroom-based PowerPoint introductory in-person modules to individual-based preparation through OLT, Online Training. Terms and acronyms used by NWCG to describe their course modalities include ILT (instructor-led training, classroom), OLT (asynchronous Online Training), and FT (field Training). Blended learning refers to courses that are partially made up of self-directed, asynchronous online training.

Progress Update and Analysis/Summary of Issue:

The [January Staff Report](#) identified curriculum gaps and currency gaps between current NWCG course version and SFT course versions. SFT continued evaluating the impacts of NWCG curriculum modernization and development of the Wildfire Learning Portal (WFLP) Learning Management System (LMS) across the SFT catalog.

After further review of the 29 courses, SFT has established 4 Curriculum update categories. Courses are categorized into review levels based on curriculum complexity to establish review and implementation pathways. SFT has analyzed access to updated instructional materials and changes to delivery models. SFT has examined operational dependencies and California-specific requirements within the California Incident Command Certification System (CICCS).

This review framework is intended to support future decision-making regarding curriculum maintenance, catalog management, instructor implementation, and operational support requirements.

Review Categories and Recommended Actions

Following completion of the curriculum alignment review, SFT categorized courses into four (4) review level categories based on the complexity of the curriculum update, implementation impacts, access to updated instructional materials, operational dependencies, and long-term maintenance considerations. Each category includes recommended actions intended to support informed stakeholder discussion and future curriculum decisions.

A. Category 1 – Administrative Review and Update

Category 1 courses are marked for internal SFT administrative or editorial review and have been divided into two categories (1A and 1B) based on course demand, operational relevance, and maintenance needs.

Some of these courses require pre-course work or preparation, but they do not require OLT or OLT pre-course assessment. Course materials are easily accessible via the Wildfire Learning Portal. Exams are available by request with a Wildfire Learning Portal “Monitor” Level account.

Category 1A – Editorial and Administrative Updates

These courses remain operationally relevant and have a recent or ongoing delivery history. Required updates are primarily administrative or editorial in nature and do not substantially alter course outcomes, certification requirements, or delivery expectations.

Recommendation: Internal SFT admin and editorial updates.

Course Code	Course Name	Deliveries since 2020	Recommendation
L-280	<i>Followership to Leadership</i>	11	<i>Admin Update</i>
S-131	<i>Firefighter Type 1</i>	87	<i>Admin Update</i>
S-200	<i>Initial Attack Incident Commander</i>	16	<i>Admin Update</i>
S-211	<i>Portable Pumps and Water Use</i>	12	<i>Admin Update</i>
S-215	<i>Fire Operations in the Wildland Urban Interface</i>	10	<i>Admin Update</i>
S-236	<i>Heavy Equipment Boss (Single Resource)</i>	2	<i>Admin Update</i>
S-270	<i>Basic Air Operations</i>	6	<i>Admin Update</i>
S-300	<i>Extended Attack Incident Commander</i>	9	<i>Admin Update</i>
S-358	<i>Communications Unit Leader</i>	1	<i>Admin Update</i>
S-404	<i>Safety Officer</i>	2	<i>Admin Update</i>
S-430	<i>Operations Section Chief</i>	5	<i>Admin Update</i>
S-440	<i>Planning Section Chief</i>	4	<i>Admin Update</i>

These course materials will return with administrative updates at the January 2027 STEAC meeting.

Category 1B – Administrative Review: Catalog removal

These courses have not been delivered in recent years, demonstrate limited statewide demand, may no longer align with current operational needs, or have been superseded by

other training pathways. All classes have been evaluated. Operational impacts are minimal, qualification training requirements are obsolete or no longer relevant for SFT, and there is no demand for these courses.

Recommendation: Removal from the SFT course catalog.

Course Code	Course Name	Deliveries since 2020	Recommendation
S-244	Field Observer	0	Discontinue from SFT Catalog
S-245	Display Processor	0	Discontinue from SFT Catalog
S-355	Ground Support Unit Leader	0	Discontinue from SFT Catalog
S-445	Incident Training Specialist	0	Discontinue from SFT Catalog
*S-339	Division/Group Supervisor	4	Discontinue from SFT Catalog

*Special Recommendation – S-339 Division/Group Supervisor

California currently requires S-339AR for Division/Group Supervisor qualification through CICCIS. Because California operational and qualification requirements are already supported through S-339AR, SFT recommends discontinuing S-339 from the SFT catalog. Removal of S-339 would eliminate the duplicative curriculum while preserving California qualification pathways through S-339AR.

B. Category 2 – NWCG Blended-Only Courses

Review category 2 courses are NWCG courses that have transitioned to blended delivery models that require OLT (Online Training), in addition to CLT (Classroom-Led Training) and FT (Field Training). The course content for the OLT modules is only available to students via self-assignment. Some courses describe up to 50% of their content online.

Updated instructional materials depend on completion of required online training components, limiting SFT's ability to independently access, review, or support complete curriculum packages outside of the WFLP LMS. These courses pose implementation and maintenance challenges due to evolving delivery requirements and limited access to the curriculum.

Recommendation: Further Analysis by SME or Steering Committee.

Stakeholder input is requested regarding the following actions:

Option 1 – Continued Internal SFT + SME Analysis

- Further evaluate curriculum access, delivery impacts, instructor requirements, and administrative feasibility. Assess the long-term sustainability of maintaining these courses within the SFT catalog.

Option 2 – Establish a Steering Committee

- Form a stakeholder steering committee to evaluate operational impacts, review delivery modalities, and curriculum access concerns, to make long-term recommendations and curriculum updates.

Course Code	Course Name	Deliveries Since 2020	SFT Version	NWCG Version	Recommendation
S-130	<i>Firefighter Training</i>	208	2020	2025	<i>Further Analysis</i>
*S-190	<i>Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior</i>	158	2020	2023 / 2025 / 2026	<i>Further Analysis</i>
S-231	<i>Engine Boss (Single Resource)</i>	151	2004	2025	<i>Further Analysis</i>
*S-203	<i>Introduction to Incident Information</i>	16	2008	<i>Pilot Program (Beta Phase Development)</i>	<i>Hold for Further Analysis</i>

**Special Recommendation – S-190*

S-190 remains one of the most frequently delivered NWCG courses within the SFT catalog, with 158 deliveries during the review period. NWCG has significantly revised this curriculum and now maintains two separate delivery pathways. The 2025 version, *Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior*, utilizes a blended learning model. The 2026 version, *Anticipating Wildland Fire Behavior*, is a fully online asynchronous course and includes a course title change. The 2026 version is an update to the fully online 2023 version. These changes present several implementation considerations for SFT, including how to incorporate updates to a classroom-based delivery model, whether completion of the NWCG online course should satisfy course requirements, and whether accredited academies should be authorized to deliver the 2025 blended version through a

Variance/Alternative Application process Pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Section 1980.06, State Fire Training may approve Variance/Alternative Applications for accredited academies under specified circumstances.

Continued evaluation of both curriculum models is necessary. SFT requests stakeholder input via SME’s or Steering Committee regarding future implementation options, including:

- Authorization of the 2025 blended curriculum through an accredited academy Variance/Alternative Application process pursuant to Title 19, Section 1980.06
- Establishment of a steering committee to review implementation options and long-term curriculum strategies

**Special Recommendation – S-203 Introduction to Incident Information*

NWCG is currently piloting a revised version of S-203. SFT recommends holding this course for further analysis until NWCG completes pilot testing and releases final curriculum guidance. An update will be provided in the January 2027 STEAC Staff Report.

C. Category 3 – Restricted Access Curriculum Courses

Category 3 courses have transitioned to updated NWCG curriculum packages that require elevated permissions within the Wildland Fire Learning Portal to access instructor materials, testing resources, answer keys, and other instructional content.

Because access requires federal approval, SFT may not have sufficient access to independently review, support, update, or quality assure these courses through existing curriculum management processes. Additionally, all three of these courses have undergone major content revisions.

Course Code	Course Name	Deliveries Since 2020	SFT Version	NWCG Version	Recommendation
S-230	<i>Crew Boss (Single Resource)</i>	135	2004	2023	<i>*Steering Committee</i>
S-271	<i>Helicopter Crewmember</i>	4	2010	2025	<i>*SME Review or Discontinue</i>
S-390	<i>Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior Calculations</i>	22	2007	2025	<i>*SME Review/Steering Committee</i>

**Special Consideration – S-230 Crew Boss*

S-230 underwent a major revision, expanding from 7 to 19 instructional units with significant changes to objectives and content. Given its high delivery volume and

operational importance, stakeholders should evaluate whether the course can be maintained within the SFT catalog under current access restrictions.

**Special Consideration – S-390 Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior Calculations*

S-390 remains operationally relevant, with 22 deliveries since 2020. However, the SFT course plan is based on a 2007 curriculum, while NWCG released a revised version in 2025. Given the age gap and potential limitations on access to updated materials, stakeholders or steering committee should determine whether to pursue additional coordination, establish a steering committee, or discontinue the course

D. Category 4 Classes

Category 4A – California-Specific Courses (All-Risk/AR)

These courses are already maintained as California-specific curriculum and support CICCIS requirements. Curriculum ownership and maintenance responsibilities reside within California rather than NWCG. The focus of this review category is curriculum maintenance, administrative review, and long-term relevance.

Recommended Actions:

S-339AR and S-430AR received a Course Plan/Administrative Review in 2021 but have not undergone a substantive curriculum revision since 2000.

Course Code	Course Name	Last Review	Years Since Major Revision	Recommendation
S-339AR	<i>Division/Group Supervisor (California Specific)</i>	2021	25	<i>*SME Review/Curriculum Assessment</i>
S-430AR	<i>Operations Section Chief (California Specific)</i>	2021	25	<i>*SME Review/Curriculum Assessment</i>

**Special Considerations – S-339AR*

- Required by CICCIS for Division/Group Supervisor qualification
- Primary California qualification pathway following the recommended discontinuation of S-339
- Administrative review should evaluate curriculum relevance, course references, and instructor resources

**Special Considerations – S-430AR*

- Supports California-specific operational requirements

- Administrative review should evaluate curriculum relevance, course references, and instructor resources
- Consider whether updates are needed to reflect current incident management practices and operational complexity

Category 4B – Courses with Potential Operational Dependency consequences.

These courses maintain direct dependencies within CICCIS qualification pathways or support ongoing operational needs within California. As a result, these courses need to remain within the SFT catalog regardless of federal curriculum decisions.

Course Code	Course Name	Deliveries Since 2020	SFT Version	NWCG Version	Recommendation
*S-212	Wildland Fire Chain Saws	164	2012	*2024	1) Admin update; 2) Executive CICCIS/PMS 310-1 Alignment Discussion
*S-223	Fireline EMT/Paramedic	57	2021	Discontinued	Internal SFT/SME Review
*S-290	Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior	261	2007	2025	SME or Steering Committee Review

S-212 Wildland Fire Chain Saws

The NWCG restructured the Wildland Fire Chain Saw training track, adding a new S-112 level course, transitioning the NWCG S-212 course to an all-online learning course that acts as a prerequisite to opening a federal B Faller task book. NWCG S-212 no longer aligns with SFT S-212. NWCG S-112 and S-212 closely align, but the NWCG has introduced a 4-hour Online Training Module as pre-course work to S-112.

- SFT completed an administrative update to align course resources with current NWCG materials and NFPA standards. The draft update and bulletin are attached to this report. The course remains aligned with the 2026 CICCIS Guide. This course will continue to be delivered instructor-led, consistent with current SFT policy.

***Special 2-Part Recommendation: S-212 Wildland Fire Chainsaws**

- 1) Administrative Update

2) Conduct a future Executive CICC/S/PMS 310-1 alignment discussion to evaluate qualification impacts associated with the introduction of NWCG S-112 and monitor changes to the wildland chainsaw training pathway.

S-223 Fireline EMT/Paramedic

NWCG discontinued S-223 in 2024 and removed the course from the NWCG curriculum catalog. SFT has offered this course 57 times since 2023. Fireline EMT and Fireline Paramedic are no longer federal ICS Quals. While the course is no longer a federal qualification requirement, the 2026 CICC/S still identified Fireline EMT/Fireline Paramedic as ICS qual. S-223 is required training. As a result, SFT needs to determine the future ownership, maintenance, and governance of the curriculum as a CA-Specific Course.

**Special Recommendations: S-223 Fireline EMT/Paramedic*

Conduct an internal SFT and SME review of the current curriculum and operational needs

- Evaluate transition of S-223 to a California-specific course designation
- Consider renaming or reclassifying the course as a California-only offering
- Evaluate impacts to CICC/S qualification pathways and California stakeholders

S-290 Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior

The current SFT course plan is based on a 2007 curriculum, while NWCG released a revised version in 2025 with a course name change to “Anticipating Wildland Fire Behavior.” The updated curriculum transitioned from a traditional classroom delivery model to a blended learning model that combines online coursework with instructor-led training. Despite federal course modernization efforts, the 2026 CICC/S guide maintains “The online S-290 course does not meet the requirement for this position. Only the full NWCG OR SFT classroom version is acceptable.”

**Special Recommendations: S-290 Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior*

SME or Steering Committee Review

- Evaluate the NWCG 2025 blended curriculum model.
- Consider whether the 2025 blended (online + classroom) version of S-290 should be authorized for delivery by accredited academies through a Variance/Alternative Application process pursuant to Title 19, Section 1980.06
- Continue monitoring implementation impacts associated with the updated curriculum model.



INFORMATION BULLETIN

S-212 Wildland Fire Chainsaws

June 2026

OVERVIEW

This document is intended to provide information for all State Fire Training (SFT) S-212 Registered Instructors on updates to the S-212 curriculum. Stakeholders are encouraged to study this information carefully and seek clarification from SFT if questions arise.

BACKGROUND

The NWCG is making significant changes and updates to courses and curriculum, along with the launch of the new Wildfire Learning Portal Learning Management System. This includes changes to the Wildland Fire Chain Saws course track; addition of a new course, S-112 and changes to S-212 curriculum.

The SFT, State Fire Training, S-212 course name will remain the same, "S-212 Wildfire Chain Saws (2024)" which maintains alignment with the 2026 CICCIS Guide. There are no changes to the units, topics, timetable, or learning objectives for this course.

CURRICULUM UPDATES

SFT has updated the S-212 Course Plan Required Resources section in alignment with updated NWCG Wildland Fire Chain Saws Course Materials and the Facilities, Equipment, and Personnel Section to reflect 2022 NFPA updates.

Updates include:

Course Manual

- [NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire Chainsaws Operations, PMS 212, March 2025](#)

Pre-Course Work Assignment:

- [Pre-Course Glossary of Terms](#)
- [NWCG YouTube Channel Video: Fuel Geysering Predictable](#)

Student Workbook

- [2012 S-212 Student Workbook](#)

BEST PRACTICES

All SFT-NWCG Courses shall follow an in-person, instructor-led learning model. Any alternate delivery of course material requires submission of an alternate delivery variance application attached in the Supplemental Documents portion of the SFT Webform - Course Request Form.



S-212: Wildland Fire Chainsaws

(2024)

Course Plan

Course Details

Description:	This is an instructor-led course intended to be presented at the local level. The course lessons provide introduction to the function, maintenance and use of internal combustion engine powered chainsaws, and their tactical wildland fire application. Field exercises support entry level training for firefighters with little or no previous experience in operating a chainsaw, providing hands-on cutting experience in surroundings similar to fireline situations.
Designed For:	Individuals desiring to be qualified as Incident Commander Type 5 (ICT5), Felling Boss, Single Resource (FELB), or completed SFT Firefighter 2 training.
Authority:	National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG)
Prerequisites:	Completed SFT Firefighter 1 training. Satisfactory completion of pre-course work.
Standard:	N/A
Hours:	24-36 hours
Maximum Class Size:	40 (24 Recommended by NWCG)
Instructor Level:	Registered Instructor
Instructor/Student Ratio:	1:40 Lecture (NWCG Recommends 24) 1:10 Application or Field Training (NWCG recommends 1:6)
Restrictions:	Limited to Instructor-Led Delivery only.
SFT Designation:	FSTEP

Required Resources

SFT Curriculum Box: <https://calfire.box.com/v/SFTCourseMaterialsBoxS212>

Online Instructor Resources

The following instructor resources are required and are available online at

- Course Manual
 - [NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire Chainsaws Operations, PMS 212, March 2025](#)

Student Resources

To participate in this course, students need:

- Pre-Course Work Assignment
 - [Pre-Course Glossary of Terms](#)
 - [NWCG YouTube Channel Video: Fuel Geysering Predictable](#)
- Student Workbook
 - [2012 S-212 Student Workbook](#)

Facilities, Equipment, and Personnel

The following facilities, equipment, or personnel are required to deliver this course:

Facilities

- Standard classroom equipped for up to 40 students
- Whiteboards or easel pads with appropriate writing implements
- Projector/TV with appropriate laptop connections
- Wifi/Internet access

Equipment

Student safety is of paramount importance when conducting the type of high-risk training associated with Wildland Fire Chainsaws.

- The student is responsible for providing their PPE and ensuring that all PPE meets AHJ and site requirements.
- For all power tools, hand tools, equipment and operating supplies, ensure that you have an adequate amount to support a safe and active learning environment.
- Appropriate chainsaw operating PPE is defined by NFPA 1977 5.7 and detailed by [Specification 6170-4K, Chaps Chain Saw M-2020](#).

Personnel

The following personnel are required to deliver this course:

- Any instructor counted toward student ratios, including application components, must be an SFT Registered S-212 Wildfire Chainsaws Instructor.

- SFT strongly recommends the use of Skills Coaches as supplemental support to assist with application and skills proficiency practice.

The use of Skills Coaches as supplemental support does not negate the 1:10 instructor/student ratio requirement.

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Objectives

Course Objectives

1. Define and apply chainsaw safety standards as required by OSHA and agency handbooks, manuals, directives, and owner's manuals.
2. Identify and demonstrate basic chainsaw operation, troubleshooting, maintenance, and safety features.
3. Demonstrate the tactical application of chainsaws in fireline construction and mop up operations.

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