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OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL  
STATE FIRE TRAINING**

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**Date:** March 7, 2023

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

**From:** Brandon Erickson, National Accreditation & Certification Exam Manager

**SUBJECT/AGENDA ACTION ITEM:**  
L-180 Human Factors in The Wildland Fire Service

**Recommended Actions:**  
Information Only

**Background Information:**

State Fire Training (SFT) allows Fire Fighter 1 reciprocity for eligible applicants. The majority of reciprocity applicants (those certified out-of-state) meet the requirements for Fire Fighter 1A: Structure and FF1B: HazMat FRA/FRO, but most lack wildland certification and training. Reciprocity candidates can meet the wildland training through one of the following options:

- Fire Fighter 1C: Wildland (SFT)
- S-130, S-190, and L-180 (CICCS and/or NWCG)
- Basic Fire Fighter Training (CAL FIRE)
- Wildland Fire Fighter course (CAL JAC)

Upon completion of one of the approved wildland training options, candidates are then eligible to complete the Fire Fighter 1C state certification exam (includes cognitive and psychomotor skills) and upon successful completion become eligible for Fire Fighter 1 certification.

The most popular option for Fire Fighter 1 reciprocity applicants is to complete the NWCG training. SFT has always required in-person completion of NWCG's S-130: Firefighter Training, S-190: Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior, and L-180: Human Factors on the Fireline course as an option to fulfill the wildland training for reciprocity. NWCG permitted these three courses to be delivered together in a combined program or individually where S-190 was the prerequisite to S-130 and where S-130 & L-180 were taught together.

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*"100 years of service to the people who live, work and play in California, and our continued resolve to protect our communities for centuries to come."*

However, L-180 is now no longer included as part of the S-130 course and students that complete S-130, will no longer be given credit for completing L-180. The L-180 course is now being presented as a standalone course. This can be accomplished through the facilitation of an in-person Instructor-Led version of the course or by students completing the Self-Directed (Online) version of the course. Nearly every reciprocity applicant reports that they can easily find in-person options for S-130 and S-190, but cannot find any in-person versions of the L-180 course. The L-180 course is four hours in length, with no pre-course work or pre-selection assessments, instead, the presentation of the course involves a few short lecture segments, but the primary content is delivered by video and supported with small group exercises.

**Analysis/Summary of Issue:**

Fire Fighter 1 reciprocity has been difficult for applicants because they can often find in-person training opportunities for S-130 and S-190, but cannot find an in-person L-180 course. Nearly every week applicants ask if they may use the L-180 online course because that is the only L-180 training option they can find.

SFT recommends approving the use of the online version L-180 course to meet the reciprocity training requirement. This is a four-hour basic wildland course for entry-level personnel and no component of this course requires an in-person demonstration. SFT will continue to require in-person completion of S-130 and S-190.

Allowing the use of an L-180 online course will expand training opportunities for those seeking reciprocity which includes Department of Defense (DoD) applicants. Applicants are required to still demonstrate knowledge and skill through the SFT certification examination for Wildland Fire Fighter 1C.

**Potential Agency Impacts:**

None at this time.