



S-244: Field Observer (2007)

Course Plan

Course Details

Description:	This course provides students with the skills necessary to perform as a Field Observer (FOBS) and/or a Fire Effects Monitor (FEMO). Topics include roles and responsibilities of the FOBS and FEMO; how to make observations and document those observations; how to produce hand drawn and GPS field maps; and how to navigate using a compass and GPS. The navigation unit has 4½ hours of field exercises and the final field exercise is 8 hours. For pre-course work, students need to read and complete exercises in Basic Land Navigation, PMS 475.
Designed For:	Personnel desiring to be qualified as Field Observer (FOBS) and/or Fire Effects Monitor (FEMO).
Authority:	National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG)
Prerequisites:	Successful completion of S-290, Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior; successful completion of pre-course work; basic understanding of how to use a GPS receiver; and FOBS: Qualified as any single resource boss OR FEMO: completed SFT Firefighter 1 training.
Standard:	N/A
Hours:	18.75 hours
Maximum Class Size:	40 (24 Recommended by NWCG)
Instructor Level:	Primary instructor
Instructor/Student Ratio:	1 primary instructor per 40 students (NWCG Recommends 1:6)
Restrictions:	Limited to Instructor-Led Delivery only.
SFT Designation:	FSTEP

Required Resources

Instructor Resources

To teach this course, instructors need:

- S-244 Instructor Guide
- S-244 CD-ROM Course Materials
- S-244 Student Workbook

These materials are available to order through the National Fire Equipment System (NFES).

Student Resources

To participate in this course, students need:

- S-244 Student Workbook
- Basic Land Navigation, NFES 2865
- Fireline Handbook (including Appendix B), NFES 0065
- Incident Response Pocket Guide, NFES 1077
- Field clothes with PPE
- Engineer's ruler
- UTM grid
- Compass with adjustment for magnetic declination
- Clinometer (if not in the compass)
- GPS receiver and download cable
- Belt weather kit
- Markers, pens, and pencils
- Day pack for field exercises

Facilities, Equipment, and Personnel

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

Facilities

- Standard classroom equipped for 24 students
- Whiteboards or easel pads with appropriate writing implements
- Projector/TV with appropriate laptop connections
- Wifi/Internet access

Time Table

Segment			Unit Total
Unit 0: Introduction			0.75
Unit 1: Roles and Responsibilities			1.0
Unit 2: Observing and Documenting			2.0
Unit 3: Mapping			2.5
Unit 4: Navigation			4.5
Final Exam			8.0
Course Totals			18.75

Time Table Key

1. The Time Table documents the amount of time required to deliver the content included in the course plan.
2. Time is documented using the quarter system: 15 min. = .25 / 30 min. = .50 / 45 min. = .75 / 60 min. = 1.0.
3. The Course Totals do not reflect time for lunch (1 hour) or breaks (10 minutes per each 50 minutes of instruction or assessment). It is the instructor's responsibility to add this time based on the course delivery schedule.
4. Application (activities, skills exercises, and formative testing) time will vary depending on the number of students enrolled and the acquired structure selected for training. The Application time documented is based on the maximum class size identified in the Course Details section.
5. Summative Assessments are determined and scheduled by the authority having jurisdiction. These are not the written or psychomotor State Fire Training certification exams. These are in-class assessments to evaluate student progress and calculate course grades.

Objectives

Course Objectives

1. Demonstrate skills and knowledge to gather and report information for incident planning.