



# Oregon

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### **Wildland Fire Skills "Gap" Courses Now Available**

The United States Fire Administration (USFA) announced the availability of wildland fire skills Gap courses for structural firefighters. The USFA's National Preparedness Network (PREPnet) has produced a Webcast that explains the requirements, availability, and distribution of these newly packaged Gap course materials. The Webcast can be viewed at: [http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/subjects/wildfire/gap\\_courses.shtm](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/subjects/wildfire/gap_courses.shtm)

The *Gap* courses are based on the *Wildland Training for Structural Firefighters Skills Crosswalk* which can be viewed at [http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/subjects/wildfire/crosswalk\\_overview.shtm](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/subjects/wildfire/crosswalk_overview.shtm). The Crosswalk effort, led by USFA in partnership with the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) and the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), identified parallel technical competencies between structural firefighters and officers (NFPA Standard 1001 and 1021) or equivalent with those of four NWCG positions: Firefighter Type 2 (FFT2), Firefighter Type 1 (FFT1), Engine Boss Single Resource (ENGB), and Strike Team Leader Engine (STEN). The North American Fire Training Directors (NAFTD) has been part of this project since its inception and DPSST has been proud to serve as its representative. The *Crosswalk* also identified wildland skills and knowledge that qualified and experienced firefighters would not already have acquired through their structural firefighting training, such as specific wildland fire tactical concepts and wildland fire behavior. Learning modules were identified with the NWCG training courses to address these gaps.

The *Gap* courses take advantage of the existing skill sets of structural firefighters and minimize redundancy and classroom time for those seeking to develop their wildland fire skills. Each *Gap* course is composed entirely of NWCG training material pulled into specific courses.

The new *Gap* courses are:

- G-130, Wildland Training (FFT2) for Structural Firefighters
- G-131, Wildland Training (FFT1) for Structural Firefighters
- G-231, Wildland Training (ENGB) for Structural Firefighters
- G-330, Wildland Training (STEN) for Structural Firefighters

These new courses accomplish one of the goals stated in the National Association of State Foresters' (NASF) 2003 report to Congress titled *The Changing Role and Needs of Local, Rural, and Volunteer Fire Departments in the Wildland Urban Interface*. Visit the Wildfire section of the USFA Web site for additional information on this wildland training endeavor and to view the Crosswalk and Frequently Asked Questions section.

<b>NFPA and NWCG Certification</b>	<b>Successful Course Completion</b>	<b>Completion of NWCG Task Book</b>	<b>Recommendation To AHJ for Certification in NWCG Position</b>
Meets NFPA 1001 for Firefighter 1; no NWCG certification Required	G-130 or equivalent Skills Crosswalk training and field exercise	None required	Firefighter Type 2 (FFT2)*
Meets NFPA 1001 for Firefighter 2 <b>and</b> Certification as NWCG FFT2	G-131 or equivalent Skills Crosswalk training and field exercise	Firefighter Type 1 (FFT1)	Firefighter Type 1 (FFT1)*
Meets NFPA 1021 for Fire Officer 1 <b>and</b> Certified as NWCG FFT1	G-231 or equivalent Skills Crosswalk training	Engine Boss, Single Resource (ENGB)	Engine Boss, Single Resource (ENGB)
Meets NFPA 1021 for Fire Officer <b>and</b> Certified as NWCG ENGB	G-330 or equivalent Skills Crosswalk training	Strike Team Leader Engine (STEN)	Strike Team Leader Engine (STEN)

\*NWCG firefighter position designations 1 and 2 are opposite of NFPA designations. (Firefighter 1 = advanced)

Specific information on eligibility, requirements, documentation, roles, and responsibilities in the implementation and use of the Skills Crosswalk can be found at:

[http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/subjects/wildfire/crosswalk\\_overview.shtm](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/subjects/wildfire/crosswalk_overview.shtm)

Use of the Skills Crosswalk as a training or certification tool is voluntary. It is recognized that each locality uses differing standards and procedures for wildland training and certification. Jurisdictions should review the document, consider the procedures and requirements in the context of their current training systems, and cooperatively assess the suitability of the Skills Crosswalk to meet their needs.

### **Applicability to Oregon Fire Agencies**

Oregon fire departments and fire districts may use the Gap courses if they so desire. The local fire chief and fire training officer need to evaluate the courses and decide if they want to use the NWCG traditional delivery format and deliver the complete course or use the USFA/NWCG Gap course which recognizes structural fire training members have received. DPSST will recognize these Gap courses and structural fire agencies can apply them toward DPSST Interface Firefighter Certification once the appropriate Gap training classes have been completed. The Gap class should be delivered by a person certified as an NFPA Fire Instructor I and who is certified at, or has completed, the respective level of training.

Please note the Gap training must be delivered in a stair-step format. Here are some examples:

- 1) A person who is certified as a NFPA Fire Officer I and has not completed Interface Firefighter cannot use the Gap course approach if they want to obtain the Engine Boss certification.
- 2) A person who is certified or has completed training as a NFPA Firefighter I, Interface Firefighter and NFPA Fire Officer may elect to take the Gap course for Engine Boss.

DPSST has issued each Gap course a standardized course number and also identified the requirements for instructors. This will allow for statewide standardization within our records system. DPSST insists that local fire training officers document the training method used to deliver/receive interface training (NWCG or Gap) in their in-house/local training records. Documentation will assist local fire training officers and DPSST's District Liaison Officers (DLOs) when department training accreditation reviews are conducted.

<u>Gap Course #</u>	<u>DPSST Course #</u>
G-130 Wildland Training (FFT2) for Structural Firefighters	09F017
G-131 Wildland Training (FFT1) for Structural Firefighters	09F018
G-231 Wildland Training (ENGB) for Structural Firefighters	09F019
G-330 Wildland Training (STEN) for Structural Firefighters	09F020

Please remember, DPSST's fire certification system is voluntary and nothing within this document should be interpreted to mean that interface certification is mandatory. Likewise if your personnel have completed the required training, state certification by DPSST provides documentation of their professional achievement.

If you have any certification questions please contact Julie Olsen-Fink in the Fire Certification Section of DPSST by phone at 503-378-2297 or via e-mail at [julie.olsen-fink@state.or.us](mailto:julie.olsen-fink@state.or.us)

If you would like a copy of the USFA Gap Course CD please contact Thelma Denney in the Fire Training Section of DPSST by phone at (503) 378-2408 or via e-mail at [thelma.denney@state.or.us](mailto:thelma.denney@state.or.us)