

State-Certified Prescribed-Fire Burn Boss

Certification Training Standards Guide

Published September 2020



California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Office of the State Fire Marshal
State Fire Training

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Publication Date: September 2020

State Fire Training coordinated the development of this CTS guide. Before its publication, the Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee (STEAC) and the State Board of Fire Services (SBFS) recommended this CTS guide for adoption by the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM).

Cover photo courtesy of Nature Conservancy.

Published by State Fire Training.

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Acknowledgements

State Fire Training appreciates the hard work and accomplishments of those who built the solid foundation on which this program continues to grow.

State Fire Training gratefully acknowledges the following individuals and organizations for their diligent efforts and contributions that made the development and publication of this document possible.

CAL FIRE

- Thom Porter, Director
- Mike Richwine, Acting State Fire Marshal
- Andrew Henning, Chief of State Fire Training
- John Binaski, Chair, Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee (STEAC)

Cadre – 2019 Publication

Leadership

- Chris Fowler, Cadre Lead and Deputy State Fire Marshal III, Supervisor; CAL FIRE – Office of the State Fire Marshal and State Fire Training
- Mark Bisbee, Cadre Lead and Battalion Chief; CAL FIRE – Office of the State Fire Marshal and State Fire Training
- Laura Garwood, Cadre Editor, California State University, Sacramento

Members

- Jeremy Bailey, Director, The Nature Conservancy (Development)
- Sasha Berleman, Owner, Firepoppy Consulting (Development and Validation)
- Matt Brown, Fire Captain, Santa Clara County Fire Department (Development)
- Mark Brunton, Battalion Chief, Battalion 4 CAL FIRE, Amador- El Dorado Unit (Validation)
- Nick Bunch, Fire Management Officer Division 1, US Forest Service (Development)
- Jeffrey Crandall, Battalion Chief, US Forest Service (Development and Validation)
- Phil Dye, Owner and CEO, Prometheus Fire Consulting, LLC (Development and Validation)
- Tadashi Matsuoka, Engineer, Auburn Fire Department and Firefighter Medic, Yocha Dehe Fire Department (Validation)
- Seth Mitchell, District Fire Management Officer, Division 3, Forest Service (Validation)
- Brian Newman, Battalion Chief, CAL FIRE (Development)
- Frank Padilla, Jr., Fire Management Specialist, California State Parks (Validation)

Acknowledgments

- Lenya Quinn-Davidson, Area Fire Advisor, University of California ANR Cooperative Extension (Development and Validation)
- Anthony Stornetta, Battalion Chief, Santa Barbara County Fire Department (Development and Validation)
- Matt Thau, Engineer, Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department (Validation)
- Chris Waters, Battalion Chief, CAL FIRE (Development)

How to Read a CTS Guide

Overview

A certification training standard (CTS) guide lists the requisite knowledge, skills, and job performance requirements an individual must complete in order to become certified in a specific job function.

It also documents and justifies the OSFM-approved revisions to the certification's NFPA standard, and identifies where each certification training standard is taught (course plan), tested (skill sheets), and validated (task book).

Individuals aspiring to meet State Fire Training's certification training standards must do so in accordance with the codes, standards, regulations, policies, and standard operating procedures applicable within their own agency or jurisdiction.

Format

Each certification training standard is comprised of eight sections.

Section Heading

Training standards are grouped by section headings that describe a general category. For example, the Fire Fighter 1 CTS guide includes the following section headings: NFPA Requirements, Fire Department Communications, Fireground Operations, and Preparedness and Maintenance.

Training Standard Title

The training standard title provides a general description of the performance requirement contained within the individual standard.

Authority

The CTS guide references each individual standard with one or more paragraphs of the corresponding National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Professional Qualifications. This ensures that each fire service function within California's certification system meets or exceeds NFPA standards.

When California requirements exceed the NFPA standard, the CTS guide cites the Office of the State Fire Marshal as the authority and prints the corresponding information in *italics*.

Job Performance Requirements

This segment includes a written statement that describes a specific job-related task, the items an individual needs to complete the task, and measurable or observable outcomes.

Requisite Knowledge

This segment lists the knowledge that an individual must acquire in order to accomplish the job performance requirement.

Requisite Skills

This segment lists the skills that an individual must acquire in order to accomplish the job performance requirement.

Content Modification

This table documents and justifies any revisions to the NFPA standard that the development or validation cadres make during the development of a CTS guide.

Cross Reference

This table documents where each training standard is taught (course plan), tested (skill sheets), and validated (task book).

Section 1: Fire History and Prescribed-Fire Laws

1-1: Describing the History and the Role of Fire

Authority

1. Office of the State Fire Marshal

Job Performance Requirement

Describe the history and the role of fire in the State of California, given current and historical conditions, so that important history, impacts, and usage of fire are described.

Requisite Knowledge

1. Describe basic fire adaptations in California ecosystems
2. Describe the human relationship with fire and impacts to the ecosystem
3. Define prescribed fire
4. Describe the usage and types of prescribed fire

Requisite Skills

1. None

Content Modification

Block	Modification	Justification
CTS	Added new standard	No standard

Cross Reference

Course Plan	Skill Sheet(s)	Task Book
CA-RX Burn Boss, Topic 2-1, Describing the History and the Role of Fire	N/A	N/A

1-2: Identifying Laws and Regulations Governing Prescribed Fire

Authority

1. Office of the State Fire Marshal

Job Performance Requirement

Identify laws and regulations governing prescribed fire in the State of California, given a list of applicable laws and regulations and a variety of projects, so that all applicable local, State, and federal laws and regulations pertaining to prescribed fires are identified.

Requisite Knowledge

1. Identify all applicable and current federal, State, and local laws and regulations
2. Describe the role and responsibilities of a prescribed-fire burn boss
3. Describe liability considerations and due diligence

Requisite Skills

1. None

Content Modification

Block	Modification	Justification
CTS	Added new standard	No standard

Cross Reference

Course Plan	Skill Sheet(s)	Task Book
CA-RX Burn Boss, Topic 2-2: Identifying Laws and Regulations Governing Prescribed Fires	N/A	N/A

Section 2: Burn Plans, Permits and Approvals, and Operations

2-1: Describing How Fire-Behavior Concepts Relate to Prescribed-Fire Implementation

Authority

1. Office of the State Fire Marshal

Job Performance Requirement

Describe how fire-behavior concepts relate to prescribed-fire implementation, given a project, so that fire-behavior factors can be incorporated into the burn plan.

Requisite Knowledge

1. Identify general fire-behavior factors that influence prescribed fire

Requisite Skills

None

Content Modification

Block	Modification	Justification
CTS	Added new standard	No standard

Cross Reference

Course Plan	Skill Sheet(s)	Task Book
CA-RX Burn Boss, Topic 3-1: Describing How Fire-Behavior Concepts Relate to Prescribed-Fire Implementation	N/A	N/A

2-2: Developing a Burn Plan

Authority

1. Office of the State Fire Marshal

Job Performance Requirement

Develop a burn plan, given a project area, so that competency is demonstrated and the plan can mitigate risk and achieve desired objectives.

Requisite Knowledge

1. Identify common elements of a burn plan

Requisite Skills

1. Develop goals and objectives for the prescribed fire
2. Establish a prescription to meet the identified goals and objectives
3. Develop a burn plan

Content Modification

Block	Modification	Justification
CTS	Added new standard	No standard

Cross Reference

Course Plan	Skill Sheet(s)	Task Book
CA-RX Burn Boss, Topic 3-2: Developing a Burn Plan	N/A	JPR 1

2-3: Describing and Demonstrating the Permitting and Approval Process

Authority

1. Office of the State Fire Marshal

Job Performance Requirement

Describe and demonstrate the permitting and approval process for prescribed fire, given a prescribed-fire project and local permitting requirements, so that all requirements are met.

Requisite Knowledge

1. Describe different options for implementing prescribed fires on private lands
2. Describe State and local permitting processes
3. Describe smoke-management reporting systems, including PFIRS

Requisite Skills

1. Demonstrate use of smoke-management reporting systems, including PFIRS

Content Modification

Block	Modification	Justification
CTS	Added new standard	No standard

Cross Reference

Course Plan	Skill Sheet(s)	Task Book
CA-RX Burn Boss, Topic 3-3: Describing and Demonstrating the Permitting and Approval Process	N/A	JPR 2

2-4: Implementing a Prescribed-Fire Operation

Authority

1. Office of the State Fire Marshal

Job Performance Requirement

Implement a prescribed-fire operation in accordance with the burn plan, given a prescribed-fire burn plan, a project, and required permits and approvals, so that objectives are addressed, risk is mitigated, and safety is maintained.

Requisite Knowledge

1. Describe methods of monitoring fire behavior and managing resources to meet objectives
2. Describe the day-of-burn notification process
3. Identify logistical support needs
4. Describe the process of ensuring logistical support needs are met
5. List examples of required documentation

Requisite Skills

1. Develop an incident action plan (IAP)
2. Conduct an operational briefing using the IAP
3. Simulate the implementation of postburn procedures

Content Modification

Block	Modification	Justification
CTS	Added new standard	No standard

Cross Reference

Course Plan	Skill Sheet(s)	Task Book
CA-RX Burn Boss, Topic 3-4: Implementing a Prescribed-Fire Operation	N/A	JPR 3

Section 3: Continuing Education

3-1: Describing Best Management Practices for Prescribed-Fire Operations

Authority

1. Office of the State Fire Marshal

Job Performance Requirement

Describe best management practices for prescribed-fire operations, given current issues, developments, and laws, so that currency is maintained.

Requisite Knowledge

1. Identify changes to law, policy, or practice
2. Describe the elements of a burn plan
3. Describe the permitting and approval process
4. Describe the implementation of a prescribed-fire operation in accordance with the burn plan
5. Describe contemporary safety considerations for prescribed-fire operations

Requisite Skills

1. None

Content Modification

Block	Modification	Justification
CTS	Added new standard	No standard

Cross Reference

Course Plan	Skill Sheet(s)	Task Book
CA-RX Burn Boss Refresher, Topic 2-1: Describing Best Management Practices for Prescribed-Fire Operations	N/A	N/A