

Prescribed Fire Burn Boss Training & Certification

1. Training Requirements for Certification as Prescribed Fire Burn Boss

The following training course requirements or equivalent training, skills, and experience will be used to qualify B.C. government staff for Prescribed Fire Burn Boss certification.

Prescribed Fire Operations Chief – Certification Level			Required Training Courses	Course Availability
TYPE 1	TYPE 2	TYPE 3		
X	X	X	S-100 Basic Fire Suppression & Safety ** ##	2-day course available through MFR or contractors & colleges – enquire @ local Wildfire Management Branch Zone Office
X	X	X	I-100 Introduction to Incident Command System BC ** ##	Self study course - Available online through the Justice Institute at: http://www.jibc.ca/course/CMD110
X	X	X	Understanding the Fire Weather Index System ** ##	Self study course - CD based, Vista compatible but Admin privileges required – contact Eric Meyer, WMB @ Eric.Meyer@gov.bc.ca for CD.
X	X	X	S-211 The Fire Environment for Fire Fighters & Dispatchers ** ##	½ - 1 day course available through MFR staff – course material can be provided electronically by email initially while web link is worked on; contact Eric Meyer, WMB @ Eric.Meyer@gov.bc.ca
X	X	X	S-290 Principles of Fire Behaviour ** ##	Self study course - CD based, not Vista compatible – contact Eric Meyer, WMB @ Eric.Meyer@gov.bc.ca to obtain CD. (Web based course expected winter 2012/13)
X	X	X	S-390 Intermediate Fire Behaviour (CFS Field Guide to Forest Fire Behaviour Prediction System) **	2-day MFR instructor-led course – Fall course dates to be confirmed if there are an adequate number of candidates, contact Eric Meyer, WMB @ Eric.Meyer@gov.bc.ca
X	X	X	S-434 Ignition Operations **	3-day WMB instructor-led course – dates to be determined - contact Eric Antifaeff, WMB @ Eric.Antifaeff@gov.bc.ca
X	X	preferred	M-435 Prescribed Burn Planning & Operations	3-day WMB instructor-led course – dates to be determined - contact Eric Antifaeff, WMB @ Eric.Antifaeff@gov.bc.ca
X	X		S-411 Weather for Fire Operations	3.5-day instructor-led course – 1 offering annually in March, limited seats for non-WMB staff, contact Eric Antifaeff, WMB @ Eric.Antifaeff@gov.bc.ca
X	X		I-200 Basic ICS Modules 1 - 6	14 hour course available online through the Justice Institute at: http://www.jibc.ca/emergency/Programs_Courses/Online_Learning.htm# . This course is also offered periodically through the Wildfire Management Branch, contact the nearest Fire Centre for availability.
X	preferred		S-590 Advanced Fire Behaviour	8-day instructor-led course – 1 offering each year at Hinton Training Centre in Hinton, AB. Contact Eric Antifaeff, WMB @ Eric.Antifaeff@gov.bc.ca
preferred			Advanced Fire Ecology/Effects Training	<i>Under development</i>
preferred			S-591 Fire Behaviour Specialist	2-week National Certification course offered semi-annually in February at the Hinton Training Centre in Hinton, AB. Application deadline in June.

Notes: ** Indicates Prerequisites for M-435 // ## Indicates Prerequisites for M-340
 Type 1 – Burn Boss required for projects with Complexity Rating of >84
 Type 2 – Burn Boss required for projects with Complexity Rating of 52 - 84
 Type 3 – Burn Boss required for projects with Complexity Rating of 40 - 51
 (For details see: <http://bcwildfire.ca/Prevention/PrescribedFire/Planning/ComplexityRatingChart.htm>)

2. Prerequisite Experience for Certification as Prescribed Fire Burn Boss

In addition to training course requirements or equivalencies listed in Section 1, the following practical prescribed fire experience is required to achieve certification at each certification level.

Prescribed Fire Burn Boss Certification Level	Minimum Prescribed Fire Experience
TYPE 3	5 Type 3 Prescribed Burns ^a
TYPE 2	Acted as Prescribed Fire Burn Boss on 5 Successful Type 3 Prescribed Burns ^b
TYPE 1	10 Successful Prescribed Burns as Prescribed Fire Burn Boss ^c

Notes:

a	Must have been mentored as Prescribed Fire Burn Boss on at least 1 burn. On remainder of burns did not have to be Prescribed Fire Burn Boss but did have to perform in a capacity that allowed for skill development such as Ignition Specialist.
b	Prescribed Fire Burn Boss that has been certified to the Type 2 level, but must be mentored on first burn with a stand replacement objective.
c	At least 2 of the 10 burns must be Type 2 burns and at least 1 burn must have had a stand replacement objective.

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3. Certification and Training Recording and Tracking

The Ministry of Forests & Range, Wildfire Management Branch will maintain the documentation of training and certification levels for all B.C. government staff only. Industry staff or contractors will not be "certified" by Wildfire Management Branch. It will be the responsibility of industry to ensure their staff or contractors meet equivalent qualifications.

A certified Prescribed Fire Burn Boss is fully qualified to prepare and implement Prescribed Burn Plans according to their certification level (Type 1, Type 2 or Type 3) and the complexity rating of the burn.

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4. Prescribed Fire Manager

A Prescribed Fire Manager is designated by the Land Management agency to supervise all activities on prescribed fire projects. The PFM makes the decision (on behalf of the Land Management agency) to proceed with a burn or not. *It is recommended but not required that the Prescribed Fire Manager be fully qualified as a Prescribed Fire Burn Boss.* If the PFM is not fully qualified, the organization structure for the prescribed burn project must include a fully qualified onsite Prescribed Fire Burn Boss (PFBB) capable of and qualified to prepare and implement the burn plan. The PFBB reports to and would be supervised by the PFM.

It is preferred that the Prescribed Fire Manager will have, at a minimum, taken the modified M-435 Prescribed Fire Planning and Operations course being designed for managers (under development).

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5. Certification Process & Grandparenting/Experience Recognition

B.C. government staff wishing to acquire certification as a Prescribed Fire Burn Boss must submit their resume and documentation to the local Wildfire Management Branch Fire Zone office. The Zone Fire Protection Officer and/or their designate who are knowledgeable of the individual's experience will review and make recommendations on the application and forward the package to the Fire Center Certification Committee Panel. The Fire Center Certification Committee will certify to Prescribed Fire Burn Boss - Type 2 and 3 levels. Applications for Type 1 certification will be forwarded to the Provincial Certification Committee in Wildfire Management Branch headquarters.

A Certification Committee can opt to:

- Certify the individual as Type 1, 2 or 3 Prescribed Fire Burn Boss if they meet all training and experience and suitability requirements, or
- Conditionally certify the individual, specifying training, experience, mentoring, etc. needed to acquire or reacquire full certification by a specified date, or
- Return the application outlining training and experience needed prior to the individual receiving certification.

Certification granted through the grandparenting process will be 'temporary' in nature and will be conditional to the individual eventually meeting all training requirements for the Type 1, 2 or 3 Prescribed Fire Burn Boss within a 4 year timeframe after certification is granted.

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6. Maintaining Currency

Currency for maintaining certification as a Prescribed Fire Burn Boss will be five years. Individuals practicing at their current certification level at least once in the previous five years will maintain their certification level. 'Actively practicing' would include; preparation of burn plans, supervision of ignition phases of burn plans, peer review of burning plans, and sign-off of burn plans as government approval signatory (Designated Forest Official - Protection).