

EASTERN AREA COORDINATING GROUP

Date: October 1, 2025
To: Eastern Area Interagency Wildland Fire Community
From: Eastern Area Training Working Team
Subject: 2026 Eastern Area Interagency Priority Trainee Mobilization Program

The Eastern Area Coordinating Group (EACG) invites Eastern Area agencies to submit nominations for the 2026 Eastern Area Priority Trainee Mobilization Program. The following information provides guidelines for determining the applicability of this program to prospective applicants.

The Priority Trainee (PT) Program has an extensive history within the Eastern Area as a viable workforce development tool. Hundreds of individuals have become fully qualified resources because of the PT Program. To further enhance the PT Program, the EACG has approved an [Eastern Area Priority Trainee Mobilization Program Guide](#).

Incident Management Teams (IMTs) for the Eastern Area will no longer house their own separate trainees list. The Eastern Area utilizes one (1) Priority Trainee list. If you are interested in being a trainee on an Eastern Area IMT, you will need to apply to this program.

The PT List is not meant to capture everyone who has an open Position Task Book (PTB). Rather, it is meant to capture those individuals who meet one of the following criteria:

- Job Requirement
- IMT Trainee Positions
- Type 3 Organizational Shortage
- Future Advancement
- National Academy Trainees (such as ATGS)

Nomination Process

Individuals wishing to participate in the PT Program should submit the [Priority Trainee Nomination Form](#) along with a copy of their IQS/IQCS Master Record through their agency-accepted channels to their Home Unit/responsible party. The Home Units will prioritize each PT nomination by position and submit the nominations to their respective Eastern Area Training Working Team Representatives ([EA-TWT](#)). Priority Trainee Program information can also be found within the Wildland Fire Learning Portal – [EA Priority Trainee Program](#).

All nominations must be received by the EA-TWT Representative by the close of business on **January 31, 2026**.

EA-TWT will develop the final Interagency list at the EACG/Joint Working Team meeting in the Winter Meeting. The final 2026 Priority Trainee List will be submitted to the Eastern Area Coordination Center (EACC) for posting to the Eastern Area Coordination Center's website by the end of March.

For additional information please contact your Eastern Area Training Working Team Representative, or Eastern Area GATR – Brian Hicks by e-mail at sm.fs.eatraining@usda.gov or by phone at **520-343-0235**.

