

TRAINING



As an IHC, we conduct a required 80 hour critical training prior to going available nationally. During this two weeks physical training is stressed as a preparation for both mind and body to ensure we all meet the fitness requirements to undertake the most hazardous situations in wildland fire. We conduct refreshers on everything from basic fire operations to radio communications. We also drill on medical incidents with our equipment, in order that each crewmember understands the basics on patient stabilization and transport regardless of their certifications or prior training.

During the season we typically offer different S-classes to broaden our experience and depth. These classes range from S-212 Chainsaw Operation to S-230 Single Resource Boss and provide opportunities given different experience levels to open taskbooks. At Silver City IHC we continually train our young fire leaders to gain experience and take the necessary steps to advance their fire line qualifications. In addition we conduct sand table and field scenarios to train everything from air operations and Incident Commander leader's intent to map and compass orienteering.

At Silver City IHC, we operate under a principle of "operators" versus followers. From the beginning of critical training we develop each and every crewmember to be able to recognize, communicate and act on issues within their scope of experience. This includes everything from hazard tree recognition to daily assigned chores around the base and crew

carriers. As operators, we expect every crewmember to have the team mission in mind and understand the importance of their role on the crew, from filling the cubees of water after each operational shift to the lead sawyer cutting hot line. The practiced rapid execution of even the most menial tasks leads to an efficient team able to handle the most demanding assignments. The training of each crew member's situational awareness leads to a crew able to safely mitigate or seek alternatives to high-risk operations.

For this reason it is imperative that you are adequately prepared for the fire season prior to arriving for critical training.

