



Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management
Bureau of Indian Affairs: Southwest, Navajo, Western Regions
Bureau of Land Management: Arizona, New Mexico
National Park Service, Intermountain Region
New Mexico State Forestry Division
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 2
U. S. Forest Service



Date: October 25, 2022

To: SWA Fire Community

From: Southwest Coordinating Group

Subject: Priority Trainee Program Implementation for Fire Season 2023

The primary mission of the Priority Trainee Program is developing an interagency workforce by mobilizing trainees to incidents, assisting them in gaining critical experience for Fire Management position requirements, and succession planning for Incident Management Teams.

Nationally, Incident Management Teams (IMTs), single-resource overhead, and dispatchers provide the support structure for managing fire and all-hazard incidents. We must prepare for the future by training individuals to ensure that key positions remain intact over time. The Southwest Priority Trainee Program (SWPTP), as part of the larger Priority Trainee Program (PTP) provides an avenue to mobilize priority trainees to incidents in support of interagency succession objectives.

The Geographic Area Training Representative (GATR) is delegated the responsibility of managing the Priority Trainee Program with the GATR/SWPTP Duty Officers, implementing the program during the fire season to include coordination with other Geographic Areas to share opportunities for mobilization of priority trainees.

Program Management

Critical ICS positions are identified through the collaboration of the GATR and the various SWA Committees with final approval by the SWA Coordinating Group (SWCG).

Applications are received from November 1st through November 31st, with prioritization work occurring shortly thereafter through the collaboration of the GATR and the committees with final approval by the SWCG.

SWA Priority Trainee orientation will occur annually.

Mobilization Process

The PTP program will be utilized for all trainee mobilizations nationwide.

Mobilization of trainees in the SWA occur in the following dispatch priority order: :

1. Trainee within the dispatch zone where the incident resides.
2. Priority Trainees from the SWA Priority Trainee List (SWPTL). If none are available, after confirmation from the GATR/SWPTP Duty Officer Trainees from within the SWA that are not on the SWPTL.
3. Trainees from the PTP list nationally.
4. Normal ordering of trainees outside of the geographic area may occur.

The GATR/SWPTP Duty Officer will collaborate with the Incident Management Team (IMT) to identify training opportunities. Orders received in Expanded from the Ordering Manager, are then to be forwarded to SWCC who will collaborate with the GATR/SWPTP Duty Officer.

Individuals who apply to Primary Trainee on IMTs are encouraged to apply to both the IMT, or the Buying Team and the Priority Trainee Program. Trainees who were not selected to IMTs will not be accepted in the SWPTP if they did not previously submit a SWPTP application. If a trainee is rostered on an IMT, they will not be considered for SWPTP until they are released from the team roster for the rest of the fire season.

We strongly encourage individuals to apply for the priority trainee program and watch for announcements coming out November 1st (same timeline as IMT applications).

Please contact the Geographic Area Training Representative for the Southwest Area if there are questions: Karin Frost-Madrid karin.frost-madrid@usda.gov

Southwest Coordinating Group Chair

Date:

This document is an appendix to the Southwest Area Priority Trainee Operating Guide