

NWCG CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT ISSUE PAPER #129
REMOVAL OF S-336 TACTICAL DECISION MAKING IN WILDLAND FIRE
COURSE FROM THE NWCG CURRICULUM
July 27, 2015

BACKGROUND

In March 2015, the S-336 Tactical Decision Making in Wildland Fire course was analyzed by the NWCG Training Development Program staff to determine whether the course should be revised.

For course history see attached issue papers #1, #25 and #57.

CURRENT STATUS

Although there is no position task book associated with this course, it is targeted toward Task Force Leaders and Single Resource Bosses. It is not required in the PMS 310-1, but this course, or equivalent, is required by the Forest Service for Strike Team Leader.

The majority of the current S-336 course content is based around scenarios and the implementation of appropriate tactics. The course focuses primarily on students practicing decision making based on developed scenarios.

With the inception of the Leadership curriculum and the inclusion of scenario driven training in many operational courses (i.e.S-230, S-231, S-236, S-330, S-339) this course essentially has become another means to practice decision making, communication and leadership.

RECOMMENDATION

In an effort to reduce redundancy within the NWCG curriculum and after consulting with subject matter experts, NWCG Training Development Program staff recommends the S-336 Tactical Decision Making in Wildland Fire course be removed from the curriculum.

APPROVED / **DENIED**
(circle one)

SIGNATURE



Operations and Training Committee Chair

10/14/15
Date

cc:

- Geographic Area Training Representatives
- IQCS Program Lead
- IQS Program Lead

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CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT ISSUE PAPER NUMBER 1
---FIRE SUPPRESSION TACTICS S-336---

NIFC DIVISION OF TRAINING
NOVEMBER 9, 1993

BACKGROUND:

The existing Fire Suppression Tactics S-336 course was developed in 1990 to replace tactics training in the old Sector Boss S-330 course which was lost when the transition was made from LFO to ICS.

The curriculum design contractors (Halsey/Vance) originally proposed that the portions of S-336 which were applicable to the single resource boss positions be included when the single resource boss courses were revised. Halsey/Vance further recommended that the S-336 Fire Suppression Tactics Reference Text be made available to single resource boss trainees. These proposals were carried into the approved curriculum design.

CURRENT STATUS:

During the development workshop for Crew Boss (Single Resource) S-230, conducted October 25 - November 5, 1993, the curriculum design regarding S-336 was addressed by the development group. The group concurred with the design and incorporated the appropriate instruction into the S-230 course. The group also took on the updating of the reference text with the intent that it be published as a stand-alone reference text, not tied to any specific course. It will be used, as appropriate, in conjunction with the single resource boss courses and task force/strike team leader training.

This action was closely coordinated among development project leaders for the single resource boss courses (Crew, Engine, Dozer, Tractor/Plow, and Felling), S-336, and Task Force/Strike Team Leader S-330. Further analysis was done, with input by this group, to determine the most appropriate disposition of the instruction which remained in S-336. It was determined that the remaining training would best be placed in the S-330 course. S-336 would be eliminated.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

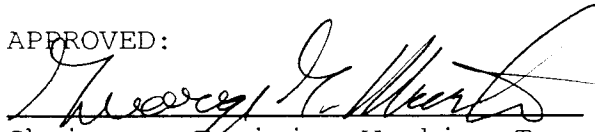
The following specific recommendations were developed by the NIFC Division of Training. Due to close scheduling of development workshops for the courses impacted by these recommendations, an approval is needed from the Training Working Team by November 19, 1993. A method for handling such situations in the future is proposed in a separate paper.

1. Put the tactical training, currently in S-336, in the course for which it is most appropriate (See attached chart).
2. Since the 310-1, which was just published, lists S-336 as required training for Task Force and Strike Team Leaders, leave the existing course in PMS until the 310-1 is revised (FY 96). At that time, it should be removed from the system and Crew Boss S-230 and Strike Team/Task Force Leader S-330 should both be required in its place. This later action will need to be coordinated with the ICSWT with appropriate changes made to the 310-1 during its next scheduled revision (1996).
3. Wildland/Urban interface training should be emphasized at both the single resource boss (S-230) and strike team/task force leader (S-330) levels.
4. S-330 should focus on training strike team leaders but with a module(s) at the end which focuses on training task force leaders, i.e., multiple resources management. The full complexity of the task force leader job should be addressed (multiple resources, wildland/urban, hazmat, etc.)

ACTION REQUIRED:

1. Upon approval of these recommendations by the Training Working Team, the NIFC Division of Training will take the following management actions:
 - a. Continue development of S-230 as determined at the earlier workshop.
 - b. Provide specific direction for the S-330 development workshop which meets December 6-10, 1993, to incorporate the appropriate sections of S-336. This workshop plans to focus on development of the course objectives and tests, leaving actual materials development for a later meeting.
 - c. Reassign the SMEs for S-336 to the S-330 development group. The workshop for S-336 was postponed until Spring due to scheduling conflicts of participants so there will be no scheduling impacts on this group.
2. The Training Working Team will need to coordinate this action with the ICSWT (see recommendation 2, above).

APPROVED:


Chairman, Training Working Team

11/18/93
Date

**CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT ISSUE PAPER NUMBER 25
REINSTATEMENT OF FIRE SUPPRESSION TACTICS (S-336) INTO THE NWCG
CURRICULUM**

BACKGROUND

The NWCG Training Working Team approved removal of the Fire Suppression Tactics (S-336) training course from the NWCG training curriculum on November 11, 1993. The course was removed to reduce redundancy because the components and skills taught in that course were incorporated into other courses. S-336 has been retained in the Publications Management System (PMS) due to its continued use in the field but it is not on the NWCG course revision schedule nor is it a required course for ICS positions.

CURRENT STATUS

Recent discussion with the Geographic Area Training Officers and with field units has illustrated that incident management personnel and trainers in incident management believe that S-336 is a valuable training tool and should be reinstated into the NWCG training curriculum allowing for adequate revisions and stocking in the PMS to meet user needs.


RECOMMENDATIONS

The National Fire and Aviation Training Support Group Leader recommends that Fire Suppression Tactics (S-336) be reinstated into the NWCG course curriculum and be revised in the FY 01 - FY 02 revision cycle.

ACTION REQUIRED

Upon approval of this recommendation, reinstate Fire Suppression Tactics (S-336) into the NWCG course curriculum and put on the revision schedule.

APPROVED:


Chair, Training Working Team

10/7/99
Date

NWCG CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT ISSUE PAPER #57
MODIFICATION OF COURSE NAME FOR
WILDLAND FIRE SUPPRESSION TACTICS, S-336
March 11, 2004

BACKGROUND

The revision of the NWCG course Wildland Fire Suppression Tactics, S-336, is nearing completion.

CURRENT STATUS

The 1990 version of S-336 concentrated on providing basic tactics. Most of those tactics are now covered in the single resource boss courses. The Wildland Fire Suppression Tactics Reference Guide, PMS 465, was developed directly from the 1990 Fire Suppression Tactics course in anticipation of S-336 being dropped from the PMS system. Issue Paper 25 was approved in 1999, directing that S-336 remain in the curriculum.

The title for this course was changed previously from the 1990 title "Fire Suppression Tactics" to "*Wildland* Fire Suppression Tactics with the approval of the TWT by conference call. During the revision of the course, the subject matter experts made substantial revision to the course content. The revised course objective is to provide the student with "The knowledge and practice in decision making necessary to effectively apply wildland fire suppression tactics." The revised course is not about what tactic to use when and where, instead it emphasizes the human factors, communication and leadership skills the tactician must demonstrate to get tactics accomplished.

Field reviews indicated that the name for the course may no longer be accurate, based on the revised content.

RECOMMENDATION

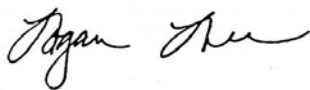
Change the name of Wildland Fire Suppression Tactics to Tactical Decision Making in Wildland Fire.

ACTION REQUIRED

Approval from the TWT of the name change.

APPROVED / **DENIED**
(circle one)

SIGNATURE



03/17/04

TWT Chair

Date