

**NWCG CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT ISSUE PAPER #49  
MODIFICATION OF COURSE HOURS FOR  
INTRODUCTION TO WILDLAND FIRE BEHAVIOR CALCULATIONS, S-390**

**BACKGROUND**

The present 1993 version of the Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior Calculations, S-390 course is 16 hours long with an emphasis using Nomograms for fire behavior calculations.

**CURRENT STATUS**

During the revision process additional units were added, including Fire Weather, Safety Zone calculations, and Documentation. These units are in-depth and provide the student with a thorough introduction to fire behavior calculations.

The final exam consists of a 50 question final test and a group exercise that requires a briefing by the students to the class and cadre. This exercise also includes a documentation package handed in to be used as part of the final score.

These additional units and the expansion of the existing units were necessary to prepare the student for the revised S-490 Advanced Fire Behavior Calculations course as well as to introduce the students in the use of available up-to-date technology.

**ISSUE**

With the addition of the additional units the current 16 hours assigned to this course are not adequate for the new curriculum.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is the recommendation of the Subject Matter Expert group revising S-390 that the suggested length of the course be increased from 16 hours to 32 hours.

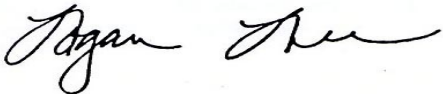
**ACTION REQUIRED**

Approval from the TWT for the increase in course hours.

**APPROVED** / DENIED  
(circle one)

Fire Behavior expertise is a recognized need in the interagency community for both suppression and RX burn delivery. This critical need is important enough to warrant the increased time commitment.

**SIGNATURE**



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**TWT Chair**

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**Date** 02/24/04

cc: Incident Operations Standards Working Team