

Central Oregon Wildfire School

Safety Gear Requirements



The following list describes the required safety gear for participating in, or being in the area of, any fire activity during “COWS”. These requirements were taken from the Oregon requirements for wildland firefighters under the State Mobilization Act. There are recommendations for equipment above the minimum requirements that has proved valuable in protecting personnel during wildland fire operations. **PERSONNEL WITHOUT THE PROPER GEAR WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SCHOOL.**

FIRE SHELTERS: An approved fire shelter must be worn during any fire suppression activity or at any time on the school grounds; in or out of the vehicle.

FOOT PROTECTION: The minimum equipment is heavy duty six inch high leather, lace type boots with non slip soles. FOR THIS DRILL ONLY zippers will be allowed. It is recommended that boots be at least 8 inches high with no zipper.

HAND PROTECTION: The requirement is leather gloves, to be worn while engaging in any activity in any area where fire is burning or has burnt within one hour.

BODY PROTECTION: The minimum requirement is for outer garments of either nomex or fire resistant material (FR cotton) other than firefighter structural turnouts. It is also recommended that personnel wear long pants and a T-shirt under the outer garment (cotton recommended).

THERMAL PROTECTION (EAR & NECK): Personnel must wear one of the following fire resistive devices during fire suppression activities; a hood, shroud, or high collar with throat strap. A dry, cotton bandana should be worn to cover the nose and mouth in conjunction with the above gear.

EYE PROTECTION: Goggles will be worn during fire suppression activities.

HEAD PROTECTION: A structure or wildland firefighter helmet is required. A wildland helmet is recommended.

WATER: It is recommended that all personnel carry drinking water with them during all operations at the school. It is very important to keep well hydrated to avoid medical problems.



These are the competencies COWS should be able to meet for the identified positions:

Single Resource Boss

4. Organize crew into configurations which will meet incident/tactical objectives.
7. Establish and maintain positive interpersonal and interagency working relationships.
8. Provide for the safety and welfare of assigned personnel during the entire period of supervision.
9. Follow the Standard Fire Orders, Watch Out Situations and agency policy.
15. Inspect personnel and equipment.
17. Report to the designated official at the check-in point providing information for completion of ICS form 211.
18. Report to strike team/task force leader or supervisor at rendezvous or check-in point.
23. Evaluate fuels, topography and weather factors throughout entire operational period.
29. Describe an effective air drop in terms of flame length and rate of spread.
30. Keep supervisor informed about progress changes in conditions, fire behavior and special events. Informs face-to-face if possible.
34. Travel to and from assignment.
35. Check-in after operational period.
41. Complete ICS form 214.
42. Demobilization and check out.

Engine boss

47. Identify capability of an engine on a wildland fire.
48. Identify capabilities of assigned engine personnel
52. Check engine communications systems. Insures compatibility and operation.
56. Coordinate and communicate with various fireline and support personnel required for engine assignments.

Advanced Firefighter/Squad Boss

11. Arrives at incident and checks in.
13. Receives task/assignment and briefing from supervisor.
20. Demobilization and check-out.

Task Force leader

2. Establish and maintain positive interpersonal and interagency working relationships.
3. Provide for the safety and welfare of assigned personnel during the entire period of supervision.
4. Follow the Standard Fire Orders, Watch out Situations, and agency policy.
12. Attend operational period briefing prior to assignment.
13. Obtain briefing from supervisor.
14. Ensure assigned resources arrive to assignment location.
23. Maintain unit log (ICS Form 214).
24. Establish communication links.
27. Check-in with staging area manager.
35. Confirm demobilization instructions with supervisor at incident.
36. Inspect units and personnel to ensure that they are ready to leave in state-of-readiness (rest, repairs, tools, fuel, etc.).
38. Complete Demobilization Check-Out (ICS Form 211).

ONLY SELECTED TRAINEES FOR TASK FORCE/STRIKE TEAM LEADERS WILL HAVE COMPETENCIES SIGNED OFF. THERE WILL BE NO TASK BOOKS SIGNED FOR OTHER POSITIONS.

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