



Wildland Fire Training & Conference Center
3237 Peacekeeper Way
McClellan, CA 95652
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TRAINING ANNOUNCEMENT

Geographic Information System Specialist for Incident Management (S-341)

[Course & Nomination Information](#) – Nomination Due 11/15/2011
Week of March 6-8, 2012

The use of Geographic Information Systems is one of the most efficient methods for documenting and managing information regarding the location of facilities, conditions, and environments affected by wildfire, floods, earthquakes, and other incidents. This mapping information can be used in GIS for analyses and updates to support incident planning and operations. Geographic Information Systems Specialists (GISS) that are involved in incident support activities should have a sound operational understanding of GIS, and the ability to plan and execute a GIS mission.

While this course is not required to become a qualified GISS, it is highly recommended by the Geospatial Training and Advisory Group (GTAG) and the Fire GIS community. The S-341 course is also identified as training to develop knowledge and skills for the GISS position in the Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide (PMS 310-1). You must complete the GISS [Task Book](#) in order to become a fully qualified GISS.

COURSE DATE & TIME: This course has both online and classroom instructional components. Prospective students will attend a conference call orientation session in early **January** to kick off the online course. The classroom session will start on Tuesday March 6th at 0800 hours and end on Thursday February 8th at 1700 hours.

COURSE OBJECTIVE: Provide GIS Specialists with a working knowledge of the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for field mapping applications in support of all-risk incidents and to familiarize current and future GISS personnel with Fire Incident Mapping Tools (FIMT).

PARTICIPANTS: Specialists and technicians actively using GIS in a Land or Resource Management environment who are interested in participating in all-risk incident management. As a GIS specialist, the attendee is expected to have expertise in using **ArcGIS 10** software. **The S-341 course IS NOT designed to teach basic ArcGIS functionality or concepts.**

PREREQUISITES: **Students must:**

- Be proficient in a Windows operating system and file management procedures.
- Be proficient in the use of **ArcGIS 10** software and have a working knowledge of the Geodatabase structure.
- Have supervisor approval to take this training course.
- Be available for at least one incident assignment this year.
- Bring a laptop to the class with appropriate software and administrative rights.
- Bring a dongle/hardware key or license to run ArcGIS.
- Bring at least a 1GB USB flash/thumb drive to transfer data and maps for grading.
- Read and be familiar with the GIS Standard Operating Procedures ([GSTOP](#)), especially Chapter 2 – File Naming and Directory Structure and Chapter 6 – Map Products.

**ONLINE SESSION
& PRE-WORK:**

Students will be advised if they meet the prerequisites to be accepted into the online session in late December. The online session and pre-work IAP Map will take approximately 8-12 hours. Students will take a mandatory final quiz and submit a pre-work IAP Map in which they must receive a passing score of 80% on each in order to be accepted into the classroom session. Please complete the steps noted below prior to the starting the online session. **Be advised that you must complete the online session and pre-work IAP Map by the deadline noted in the forthcoming announcement or you will jeopardize your acceptance into this course.**

- 1) **Complete on-line self-study course I-100** (Introduction to ICS) if not already completed. This is a self-paced course offered by the National Wildfire Coordination Group. The I -100 Course can be **completed online** at the following link: [I-100 \(http://training.nwcg.gov/true_index.html\)](http://training.nwcg.gov/true_index.html) NIMS 700/800 is not similar, please complete I-100 course. **Non-Firefighter students MUST email an I-100 certificate to the course coordinator.**
- 2) **Download and install** the following software and software guides:
 1. [Minnesota DNR Garmin version 5.4.1](#) (Software [ZIP file](#) – ArcGIS 9.3.1 only)
 2. [Fire Incident Mapping Tools \(FIMT\)](#) (Software [ZIP file](#))
 3. CDF IMT tools extension (Software update in progress)
 4. CDF PFE Color Map tools extension (Software update in progress)
- 3) **Initialize your GISS Position Task Book:**

This needs to be done by your agency training officer or your supervisor. Please bring your task book to class. [Download the GISS Task Book](#)

CLASS SIZE: 40 students (Maximum). A standby list will be created after 40 students have enrolled, in case of cancellations.

LOCATION: **Wildland Fire Training & Conference Center, 3237 Peacekeeper Way, McClellan, CA** (Closest Airport: SMF/Sacramento International)
The Training Center does not provide transportation while you are here for your session. Individuals flying into Sacramento must make their own rental car arrangements at the airport or take Super Shuttle for about \$25 each way.

TUITION: \$400

LODGING: For hotel lists, directions to the training center, or any other logistical information, please visit: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/fire/mcclellan>.

The WFTC Dormitories are available on a first come first served basis. Please submit a form as soon as possible. Dormitory form located at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/fire/mcclellan>. For more information and pictures of the dormitories click on [Pacific Southwest Region - WFTC Dorms](#).

APPLICATION: **Nominations** are being accepted until November 15, 2011 and will be accepted in IQCS or typed/emailed (unit fire training officer can help with this). We will not accept handwritten or faxed nominations, as they are billing documents and too hard to read).

Applicants must complete and sign the two-page **GIS Questionnaire** and return no later than **November 15, 2011**. Questionnaires may be sent by e-mail to wftc@fs.fed.us and lpeltzlewis@fs.fed.us.

Notification of applicants who qualify to continue on to the online segment of this course will be made by December 9, 2011.

For additional information about the course, please contact:

Lorri Peltz-Lewis – Fire GIS Coordinator (Detail)
Fire and Aviation Management
USDA Forest Service – Pacific Southwest Region
(916) 640-1049 or lpeltzlewis@fs.fed.us

Additional information about the Wildland Fire Training and Conference Center can be found at the following website... <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/fire/mcclellan/>