

IAFC/CSU Wildfire Leadership - Officer Development Program (ODP)

Wildfire Leadership I

This course develops foundational leadership and operational competencies for officers working in Wildland–Urban Interface (WUI) environments. Emphasis is placed on incident leadership, risk management, firefighter safety, legal considerations, and consistent wildfire management strategies.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

CLO 1: Describe foundational principles of wildland fire leadership, operations, incident management, communication, and risk management as they apply to Wildland–Urban Interface (WUI) environments.

CLO 2: Identify key concepts related to wildland firefighter health and safety, legal and legislative considerations, cohesive wildfire management strategies, and the role of fire-adapted communities in reducing wildfire risk.

Units and Unit Learning Outcomes (ULOs)

Unit 1: WUI Operations, Training, and Qualifications

- Define the Wildland–Urban Interface (WUI) and describe its operational characteristics.
- Identify common wildfire suppression activities conducted in WUI environments.
- Recognize baseline training requirements and qualification systems for WUI personnel.
- Describe the roles of local, state, and federal agencies involved in WUI operations.

Unit 2: WUI Leadership and Risk Management

- Define leadership principles applicable to WUI wildfire incidents.
- Identify common risk factors associated with WUI fire operations.
- Describe basic risk management concepts used in wildland fire decision-making.
- Explain the relationship between leadership, situational awareness, and firefighter safety.

Unit 3: Communication and Collaboration

- Identify key communication methods used during wildland fire incidents.
- Define the importance of interagency and multi-discipline collaboration in WUI events.
- Describe common communication challenges encountered during wildfire response.
- Recognize the role of clear communication in operational effectiveness and safety.

Unit 4: Incident Response and Incident Management Teams

- Define the purpose of Incident Management Teams (IMTs) in wildfire response.
- Identify the basic structure and functions of an incident management organization.
- Describe how IMTs support coordination during large or complex incidents.
- Explain the relationship between local resources and incident management teams.

Unit 5: Wildland Firefighter Health and Safety

- Identify common health and safety hazards faced by wildland firefighters.
- Define key safety principles used in wildland fire operations.
- Describe the impact of fatigue, heat stress, and smoke exposure on firefighter performance.
- Recognize the importance of safety culture and personal responsibility in wildfire response.

Unit 6: The Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy

- Define the Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy and its purpose.
- Identify the three primary goals of the Cohesive Strategy.
- Describe how the Cohesive Strategy applies to WUI fire management.
- Recognize the role of partnerships and shared responsibility in wildfire management.

Unit 7: Wildland Legal and Legislative Environment

- Identify basic legal concepts related to wildland fire management.
- Define the role of legislation in shaping wildfire policy and operations.
- Describe how laws and regulations influence wildfire response and mitigation.
- Recognize the responsibilities and liabilities of agencies operating in the WUI.

Unit 8: Fire Adapted Communities

- Define the concept of a fire-adapted community.
- Identify key characteristics of communities resilient to wildfire.
- Describe the role of residents, agencies, and organizations in wildfire preparedness.
- Recognize how education and mitigation efforts reduce wildfire risk in the WUI.

Unit Alignment to Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)- Mapping

Unit	CLO 1	CLO 2
Unit 1: WUI Operations, Training, and Qualifications	✓	
Unit 2: WUI Leadership and Risk Management	✓	
Unit 3: Communication and Collaboration	✓	
Unit 4: Incident Response and Incident Management Teams	✓	
Unit 5: Wildland Firefighter Health and Safety		✓
Unit 6: The Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy		✓
Unit 7: Wildland Legal and Legislative Environment		✓
Unit 8: Fire Adapted Communities		✓