Alaska Fire Modeling and Analysis Committee
GETTING STARTED in Fire Behavior Modeling.

ALASKA FIRE MODELING AND ANALYSIS COMMITTEE

Interested in Fire behavior modeling? Not sure where to begin or who to contact? The Alaska Fire Modeling & Analysis Committee (FMAC) coordinates a network of analysts that provide mentoring and training to help develop fire behavior analysts in Alaska.

Our website:
http://www.frames.gov/partner-sites/afsc/partner-groups/fire-behavior-modeling-group/ is a great resource to help you get started. **Sign up** to become a Fire Behavior Specialist and we can match your skills with a mentor. Join us on an upcoming webinar or listen to past webinars posted on the site.

Where to begin?
To start with you should try to get experience working in and around wildland fires, observing weather and fire behavior in different fuel types. (ie black spruce, tundra etc) . You should also be familiar with LANDFIRE, NFDRS and CFFDRS.

New to the wildland fire decision making process? The Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) hosts the current fire behavior modeling platform to assist managers in making wildfire decisions. The site hosts a series of training aids for both the decision side of the software as well as the fire modeling. There are how to's, lessons and modules under the Training and Resource tabs that will help familiarize you with the process. The WFDSS Link is:

https://wfdss.usgs.gov/wfdss/WFDSS_Training.shtml

Landscape Fire and Resource management Planning Tools (LANDFIRE) is an interagency vegetation, fire and fuel characteristic mapping program. Learn more here:
 http://www.landfire.gov/

National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS):http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/pubs/MasterGaining.pdf

The fuel model guide to Alaska vegetation will serve as a good reference.
http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/admin/awfcg_committees/Fuels,%20Prescribed%20Fire,%20and%20Community%20Assistance/e.%20Alaska%20Fuel%20Model%20Guidebook%2062008.pdf

TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating System and Canadian Forest Fire Behavior Prediction (FBP) System.

http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/weather/2008%20CFFDRS%20Weather%20Guide.pdf
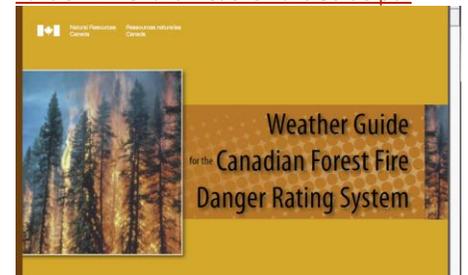
Recommended Training Classes

Fire behavior classes start with S190 and continue to S590. Most years spring training includes S290 and S390 in Alaska. Check out the Interagency Fire Training site for the latest schedule.
http://www.nationalfiretraining.net/schedule/list
S190: Introduction to Fire Behavior
S290: Intermediate Fire Behavior
S390: Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior Calculations
S490: Advanced Fire Behavior Calculations
S590: Advanced Fire Behavior Interpretation
S491: Intermediate National Fire Danger Rating system
S495: Geospatial Fire analysis, Interpretation and application.

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What are the positions and qualifications needed to be a fire behavior specialist?

We'll start with the position that requires the least amount of training and qualification and work our way to the most complex positions.

WFDSS Fire Behavior Specialist: Geospatial Analysist (GSAN)

Required Training:
- National Incident Command System (IS700.a)
- Introduction to ICS (ICS-100,IS100 or Q-462)
- Geospatial Fire analysis, Interpretation and application (S495)

Fitness level - *None*
This position is certified by Agency specified experience as GSAN.

Strategic Operations Planner (SOPL)

Required Training:
- Advanced Fire management Applications (S-482)

Required NWCG Qualifications:
Prescribed Fire Burn Boss Type 2 (RXB2)
Division/Group Supervisor (DIVS)
Fitness level: *Moderate*

Long Term Analyst (LTAN)

Required Training:
- Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents (ICS-300)
- National Response Framework (NRF) : (IS800)
- Annual Fire line Safety Refresher (RT-130)
- Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior Calculations: (S390)
- Advanced Wildland fire behavior calculation (S-490)
- Intermediate National Fire Danger Rating System (S-491)
- Advanced Fire Behavior Interpretation (S-590)

Required NWCG qualifications:
Satisfactory performance as a Fire Effects Monitor (FEMO)
Single Resource Firing Boss
Fitness level – *Moderate*

Fire Behavior Analyst (FBAN)

Required Training:
- Annual Fire line Safety Refresher (RT-130)
- Advanced Wildland Fire Behavior calculation (S-490)
- Advanced Fire Behavior Interpretation (S-590)

Required Experience:
Division/Group Supervisor (DIVS)
Fitness level – Moderate

The latest requirements for the fire behavior positions can be found in the National Incident Management System Wildland fire qualification system guide and supplement.

http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/docs/pms310-1.pdf

More information to get started as a Fire behavior modeler in Alaska contact:

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April – September only