

S-390 Fire Behavior Calculations Pre-work

Welcome to S-390. This course is key to two major objectives in your success in the wildland firefighting environment:

1. **YOUR SAFETY.** If you don't understand the environment you are working in, you are taking unnecessary risks, both for yourself, and for your coworkers. Firefighter safety is Job #1.
2. **Effective tactics.** If you don't understand the enemy, you cannot predict what is going to happen.

The cool part about this course, is that you can actually make reasonable predictions of fire behavior, and put a number to it! We take the concepts from S-290 and put numbers to it, making it even more useful information.

To complete this course you must complete the following course pre-work prior to attending the class. Success in the course is greatly enhanced by doing the pre-work. Please apply yourself to the work and be ready for the class. I promise you 100% effort on my part, but without your efforts, I assure you your success in this course will be far more difficult.

Prior to attendance in the class, you **MUST** obtain a Student CD from the Fire Academy office. Contact Jeannie Carnell at 789-5511 for further information.

From the Student CD, please complete the following:

- Read and complete the study guide "Topography". Use the references "Basic Land Navigation" that was included in the S-290 disk, or on the link below; and the document "S-244 Precourse".
- Read the document "Weather".
- Be familiar with the document "Aids to Determining Fuel Models".
- Familiarize yourself with "[Appendix B – Fire Behavior](#)" of the Fireline Handbook, and also at the link below.
- Read the Document "Safety Zones".

Finally, you must complete the Pre-test. You will be given this test the first day of class, and it must be turned in prior to the end of the course. Yes, it's open-book, and you may use all references on the CD.

I have a passion for this topic, and am committed to your acquisition of this information. If you have any questions, please give me a call. I am here to help you succeed.

Sandy Munns: (775) 224-FIRE

Links:

“Basic Land Navigation”: <http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/pubs/475/PMS475.pdf>

Fireline Handbook – Appendix B, Fire Behavior <http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/pubs/410-2/appendixB.pdf>

Additional references and a tutorial are available at: <http://training.nwcg.gov/pre-courses/s390.htm>