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2021 MD Forest Service Virtual RT-130

A quiz is required to be completed following this refresher based on information provided below.

2020 Review

The 2020 fire season was a busy one that ended up going well into November and provided many abnormal challenges for our resources due to operating in the Covid-19 pandemic environment. Mobilizing fire resources during a pandemic meant changes to the way we normally operate. Most significantly, these changes impacted how our crews were mobilized as well as how “life” was while on assignment. Instead of flying 20 person crews across the country, 10 person modules were mobilized and traveled by truck across the country. Camp life was different; in many instances’ modules were placed in hotels and when resources did end up in a fire camp, social distancing measures were in place making those environments very different from what most of us are used to. We would like to thank everyone that participated in the 2020 season for their diligence in following the COVID-19 mitigation guidelines, thanks to your efforts we had no instances of COVID-19 on any of our assignments. In total, Maryland dispatched 64 firefighters to 101 assignments that included 5 modules, 5 engines that were out from mid-August through late November, a dozer that was on assignment for 8 weeks and multiple single resources.

This refresher should take you 60 to 90 minutes to complete, review each video or publication linked below. At the end of this refresher, you will find a link to a quiz, you can open it now and complete it as you go or wait until the end and complete it then. Once you complete the quiz, the MD Forest Service Fire Staff will be notified that you have completed the refresher and you will receive credit for having completed the 2021 RT-130. We hope to see everyone **in person** in 2022.

2020 Season Overview

2020 National Fire Season Overview (2:12)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aVOAbQkiczW&feature=youtu.be>

2020 Lessons Learned Center Statistics

Review the “2020_Year_End_Infographic.pdf” as well as the “2020_LLC_Incident_Review_Summary.pdf” on the website linked below and review both documents.

<https://www.wildfirelessons.net/viewdocument/annual-incident-review-summaries>

Aquatic Invasive Species

In 2020, Maryland mobilized 5 engines to Colorado, California and West Virginia. 31 different firefighters spent time on Maryland engine assignments in 2020. Engines and other water handling devices have the ability to spread aquatic invasive species from one watershed to another. Watch the next video covering ways to mitigate the spread of these invasive aquatic species.

Aquatic Invasive Species Mitigation for Ground Resources (9:20)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9CbzDUymM34&feature=emb_logo

Felling Hazard Trees

According to the 2020 Lessons Learned Infographic, there were 3 chainsaw incidents reported in 2020, 2 due to kickback and 1 boot strike. Watch the next video on the safety of falling hazard trees and ways to mitigate them.

Felling Hazard Trees: Does it Need to Come Down? (13:43)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T5Te5DJoWOU&feature=emb_logo

Vehicle Safety

The next 2 videos cover vehicle safety. In 2020, Maryland resources traveled by vehicle more than any other year. It's often said that some of the most significant dangers firefighters face are on the road traveling to and from an incident. Watch the next 2 videos covering vehicle safety.

Rollover Accidents and Seatbelt Safety (1:29)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=41wb8bDt2w4&feature=emb_logo

Driving Safety (1:34)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xSG-U8BeOeU&feature=emb_logo

Work / Rest Ratio and Firefighter Fatigue

Firefighters often work long shifts in harsh environments and do not receive adequate rest. This can accumulate over the duration of an assignment leading to firefighter fatigue and impaired decision making. Watch the next video on sleep deprivation and consider how this impacts firefighters ability to do their jobs especially later on in assignments.

Sleep Deprivation (4:19)

<https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/training-courses/rt-130/medical/me708>

Risk Management

Risk management is something we do subconsciously everyday whether we realize it or not. In our everyday lives, we are constantly identifying hazards and making decisions whether consciously or not to mitigate those hazards. Before we pull into traffic we check for oncoming traffic to ensure there are not hazards. The next video talks about how ship pilots in one of the most dangerous waterways in the world mitigate hazards on a regular basis. Think about how this relates to wildland fire.

Risk Management Process: A Universal Tool (14:40)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fS2_hlZp7zo&feature=emb_logo

Fire Orders and Watch Out Situations

Complete the next activity on the Fire Orders and Watch Out Situations. You'll be given different scenarios and asked to identify the fire orders and watchout situations that are in play on each scenario.

Firefighting Orders and Watch Out Situations Immersive Activity

https://training.nwcg.gov/courses/s130/10_18/story_html5.html

LCES

Is Your LCES Adequate (8:14)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pQACcXe_2Gg&feature=emb_logo

Reference Material

IRPG

<https://www.nwcg.gov/sites/default/files/publications/pms461.pdf>

MD Fire Crew Specific Information

- Google forms will be sent out in June. As in the past crew members should fill out and submit the forms to indicate their availability. A few items to keep in mind:
 - Your ending availability date is the last date that you can leave for an assignment. For example, if you have a commitment on August 30 that you need to be home for, your final day of availability should be August 11; that gives you 14 days for your fire assignment plus 2 days of travel before and after your 14 day assignment. For engine/dozer assignments it is 21 days plus travel.
 - Crew / Module / Engine overhead will be identified prior to resources being listed available. With that in mind, it is extremely important that posted firefighter availability be accurate.

- If a crew member states they are available and refuses an assignment because they did not update their availability, the fire staff may remove that crew member from consideration for future assignments.
- AD firefighters will receive separate instructions on completing the AD paperwork process for 2021. AD paperwork will be collected at the pack test events and will be uploaded to the USFS electronically for 2021. Once you have been approved to take the pack test you will receive the necessary AD paperwork to fill out and bring with you to your pack test. Any packets received by the USFS after June 10 will not be accepted for 2021 and will be considered for 2022 at the earliest.

Quiz: <https://forms.gle/NmEiAduEhcZdWHVw8>