

Hybrid Fire Trainings

Opportunity in the time of COVID



Zachary A. Prusak
Wildland Fire Training Specialist

The Challenge: we need increased fire training and mentoring in the coming decades, both from a controlled burning and firefighting standpoint.

“The maturing Pyrocene is not a pretty sight. We need to relearn how to coexist with it because it isn’t going away.”

S. Pyne

Two recent surveys in the NE and SE US:

- Difficulty accessing training
- Insufficient capacity of instructors
- Training coordination often falls short
- Interest in more collaboration
- **There is a lack of virtual components** that would help reduce travel and course delivery costs

S130/S190/L180 Basic Wildland Firefighting Suite Hybrid

- All Units and testing material converted
- 50 students, all from Florida
- Mix of private, county and state

S131 Firefighter Type 1 Virtual

- Units and testing material converted
- 40 students from nine states
- 21 organizations

Partnered with UF/NATA, utilized Canvas as the LMS and Zoom for meetings

S130/S190/L180

- Three weeks to complete 33 hours of online work
- Field Day component utilized partner sites, 10 students each
- Staff: two from NATA, myself and six to 12 Field Day instructors per site

S131

- Two weeks to complete nine hours of online work
- Staff: two from NATA, myself and four instructors for three-hour Zoom scenario day

- Account
- Dashboard
- Courses
- Calendar
- Inbox 8
- History
- Help 7

- Home
- Announcements
- Modules
- Assignments
- Discussions
- Quizzes
- People
- Zoom Conferences
- Syllabus 🔗
- Rubrics 🔗
- Pages 🔗
- Grades 🔗
- Files 🔗
- Outcomes 🔗
- BigBlueButton (Conferences) 🔗
- Collaborations 🔗

- UFIFAS
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
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Welcome to Basic Wildland Firefighter!



- Import Existing Content
- Choose Home Page
- View Course Stream
- Course Setup Checklist
- New Announcement
- View Course Analytics
- View Course Notifications

Coming Up 3 [View Calendar](#)
Nothing for the next week

- Modules
- Assignments
- Discussions
- Quizzes
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- Zoom Conferences
- Syllabus 🔗
- Rubrics 🔗
- Pages** 🔗
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- Files 🔗
- Outcomes 🔗
- BigBlueButton (Conferences) 🔗
- Collaborations 🔗
- Settings

S-190 Unit 3: Temperature and Moisture Relationships

Weather is the most variable and, at times, the most difficult to predict component of the fire environment. Temperature and moisture are two weather components that are closely monitored by firefighters because they have a direct impact on fuels and potential fire behavior.

Incident Position Description (IPD) Alignment: This unit aligns with the following FFT2 IPD specific duties (<https://www.nwcg.gov/positions/fft2/position-ipd>):

- Apply the knowledge of fuels, terrain, weather, and fire behavior to decisions and actions.

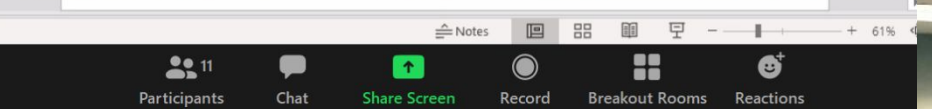
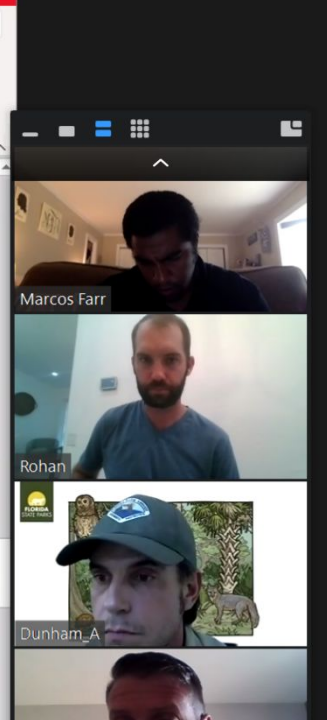
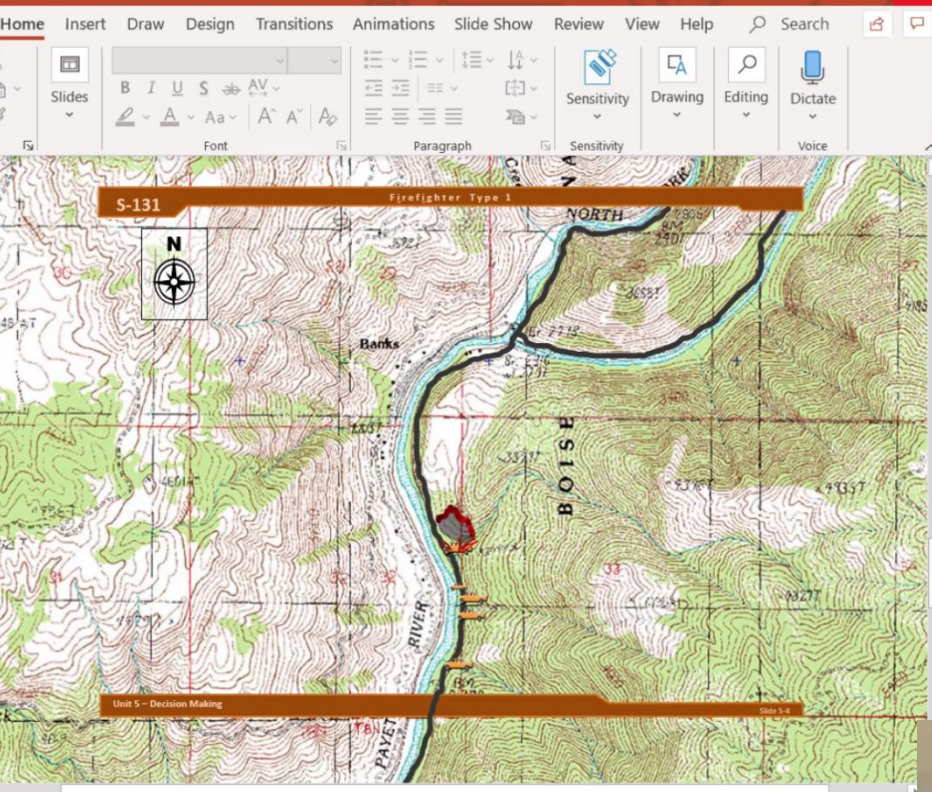
Objectives:

- Describe dry bulb temperature, wet bulb temperature, dew point, and relative humidity.
- Describe how temperature and relative humidity can influence wildland fire behavior.
- Determine relative humidity and dew point by using a Psychometric Table and given inputs.

Introduction







Challenges

- Finding people who can develop and teach an online course
- Learning curve for students who have never taken an online course
- Need some form of an LMS
- Sending students physical materials
- Internet access may be limited, need a computer/smart phone

Pros

- Increased accessibility and flexible "at your own pace" time
- Less expensive overall
- More diverse instructor pool, able to switch out Units/material easily
- Less on-site logistics
- Increase in student diversity

Cons

- Some students prefer face-to-face training
- Inexperienced students may be intimidated by platform
- Are they paying attention?

Lessons Learned

- Increase the amount of synchronous office hours
- Be sure to craft testing methods to learning objectives

The Future of Hybrid Fire Training

- Post-course surveys were positive
- Wide-range of possibilities: integrating hybrid training with Fire Councils, Prescribed Burn Associations for sites and instructors/mentors
- High-tech?
- Global reach, increase the diversity of languages and sites
- Partnering with Universities/Extension for "Master Burner" courses
- A "virtual hub" of more streamlined fire training accessibility and increased capacity to meet the needs of the future
- Training App
- Collaborations are springing up that did not exist previously

