

**Rio Hondo College  
Curriculum Committee**

<p><b>New Program &amp; Certificates (Over 17 Units)</b></p>
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**Division/Department:** Public Safety  
**Subject Area:** Fire Technology  
**Title:** Wildland Fire Technology (Top Code 2133.10)  
**Total Units:** 30 plus General Education Requirements

**Program/Certificate Description:**

This degree and certificate program will provide the student with training in hand crew formation, fire line construction, and the use of wild land equipment. The behavior of fires, protective clothing, and wild land fire tools will also be addressed. The Wildland Fire Technology Certificate program is for those students who desire to gain an understanding of wild land fire investigation, fire prevention and support operations. This program will also meet the requirements for the US Forest Service hiring process as an entry-level wild land firefighter. Selection is based on an interview and testing process which also includes passing a required physical and pack test.

**Purpose and Goals of Program/Certificate:**

The purpose of the Wildland Fire Technology program is to prepare students for employment with the US Forest Service, California Department of Forestry, and for a position with a municipal fire department. Those students that are currently employed as firefighters may take these courses to update their knowledge and skills on current Wild land firefighting tactics, and to expand their employment opportunities. These classes will also meet National Wildland Coordinating Group requirements in many areas and student certification will enhance hiring opportunity and promotional advancement. Successful completion of this program also meets employment standards for seasonal (year-to-year) work with the US Forest Service.

### **Specific Objectives of Program/Certificate:**

The purpose of the Wildland Fire Technology certificate program and degree program is specifically:

- Provide students with the training needed to work with the US Forest Service under their own Internship (3-year) program known as SCEP.
- Provide students with the knowledge of the required wildland fire operations, protocols, standard operating procedures, practices and wildland techniques to prepare them for employment with CDF, US Forest Service and other agencies.
- Provide students who have completed the Wildland Fire Academy with a certificate and degree program so they can continue their studies during the off-season (typically from 1 December to 1 May each year).
- Provide career fire fighters with the knowledge and skills pertaining to the new techniques, past practices and operations of a wildland firefighter. Career fire fighters can earn their certificate and degree in wildland fire technology and this will aid in advancement, promotional opportunities and career mobility.
- Provide students with information on operations, investigation and prevention practices pertaining to wildland firefighting. To educate all students that seek current knowledge and applicability of the Wild Land urban interface and gain a better understanding of forest management.
- Lastly, students will also be able to:
  - Operate and function within the Incident Command System protocols established by National Interagency Incident Management System.
  - Analyze Wild Land fire behavior and determine safe and effective strategies for controlling fire and saving lives and property.
  - Compare and contrast the multiple operations which are conducted with a common goal in fire suppression environments, and analyze use and assignment of all resources.
  - Operate safely and effectively as a team member of a wildland suppression operation.

**Explain how the program is appropriate to the objectives of the community college and how it conforms to statewide master planning:**

**Since 2000, Rio Hondo College has had a TYPE II hand crew, consisting of fire technology students that may respond to fires throughout the continental United States. This crew is tied to the Angeles National Forest and responded specifically to fires in Alaska, Texas, Utah, Colorado, Oregon and in California. We have also supported the recovery mission of the Space Ship Columbia (see appendix) and supported other operations during the 2003 fire storm. Our students at Rio Hondo College have had the opportunity to fight fire and have made over \$245,000 collectively each year since 2000. In 2004, we estimate our crew will be paid over \$400,000 collectively for fires fought and work completed in 2004. The US Forest Service has stated that the Rio Hondo College Roadrunners, Crew 77, consistently does an outstanding job on the fire ground. The US Forest Service would like to have our students participate in their SCEP program but this can only happen if we have a certificate and degree program. The US Forest Service has hired (Full-Time) 21 of our students already.**

**The US Forest Service had over 500 new positions in 2004. They didn't meet their hiring quota in 2004. Some of this was due to people not meeting the hiring requirements. Several of the students were hired and more could have been hired if they had the education and training necessary to gain employment. This certificate and degree program will do just that.**

### **Justification Questions**

**How has the college established a need for the proposed program or certificate? Report on the following questions as appropriate.**

**(See attached documents)**

- The Faculty at Rio Hondo College, Public Safety Division have approved of this new certificate and degree program.**
- The current Fire Technology Advisory committee has approved of this program. A new advisory committee will be formed specifically for the Wildland Fire Technology certificate and degree.**
- The US Forest Service has continually expressed a desire for Rio Hondo College to establish a Wildland Fire Technology certificate and degree program.**

**The current fire technology students have expressed an interest with this program. They see the value in obtaining this certificate and degree for career opportunity. Almost ALL of our current wildland fire fighters (Crew 77) would continue on to obtain their certificate and/or degree in Wildland Fire Technology if we had such a program.**

1. Show summary results of job market analysis, surveys or other evidence of employment possibilities for graduates of the proposed program.

Each year the California Department of Forestry hires approximately 1500 seasonal firefighters and the United States Forest Service hires an additional 1200 seasonal firefighters. This certificate and degree program will be required of all newly hired US Forest Service firefighters as January 2009. Rio Hondo College will be only one of three Colleges in Southern California with such a program.

2. What are the indications of student interest in the proposed program and how were they determined?

Enrollment Data of *Current Wildland Fire Academy* course: This course is currently the only class needed to be part of the Rio Hondo College Fire Crew. It will NOT meet the January 2009 hiring requirement that the US Forest Service has established. It is however, a good indication of student enrollment and retention rates. Keep in mind that Rio Hondo College has been conducting such courses since the year 2000.

FAC 43.60- Wildland Fire Academy

2003- 2 Classes with 132 enrolled

2004- 3 Classes with 140 enrolled

*There were 52 "Certificates of Achievement" issued during the 2003/2004 school year for students who completed the Wildland fire Academy..*

*NOTE—In the Spring Semester of 2005, current Wild Land Academy enrollment is 46 students in one section (ticket number 1391), with another section of 29 to start in March 2005. These are the students that could begin work on the Certificate and Degree program in the Fall 2005. All students have voiced a desire for our New Wildland Fire Technology Certificate and Degree program.*

3. Describe service to other disciplines which this proposed program will provide.

For the Degree program, students will be required to take the required general education courses. We will strongly suggest to students to seek out physical education classes as nutrition and fitness is extremely important to the fire fighter. The knowledge and skills taught in our EMT program are important aspects of a wildland fire fighter as is knowledge of GIS and GPS.

What is the approximate cost to adopt this program? 0.00/Time only

1. Will its adoption require that Rio Hondo College  
Employ additional staff? *We have hired who we need* Yes [ ] No [X]
2. Will it's adoption require additional equipment,  
materials or modifications of facilities? No Yes [ ] No [X]
3. How many sections will be offered? **4 to 5 per semester**
4. Will they be offered in lieu of existing sections of  
another course? Yes [ ] No [X]
5. Will this course increase the hours of instruction in  
The department? Yes [X] No [ ]
6. Will the total number of students to be served by the  
College be increased by adopting this course? Yes [X] No [ ]  
If yes, how many? **200 + by 2<sup>nd</sup> year (unduplicated)**

**Signatures:**

		Approve	Disapprove
_____	_____	_____	_____
(Division Dean)	(Date)		

**Which Instructors in the Subject Area Endorse This Proposal?**

_____	_____	_____	_____
(Signature)	(Date)	(Signature)	(Date)
_____	_____	_____	_____
(Signature)	(Date)	(Signature)	(Date)
_____		_____	
Originator (Please Print)		(Signature of Originator)	
_____			
(Curriculum Committee Member)			

## WILDLAND FIRE TECHNOLOGY

*(Associate of Science Degree)*

This Degree program will provide the student with training in hand crew formation, fire line construction, and the use of wild land equipment. The behavior of fires, protective clothing, and wildland fire tools will also be addressed. The Wildland Fire Technology Associate Degree program is for those students who desire to gain an understanding of Wildland fire investigation, fire prevention and support operations. This program also meets the requirements for the US Forest Service to be hired as an entry-level Wild land firefighter. This degree program will also aid currently employed municipal firefighters with the learning domains and knowledge base to respond to and mitigate a Wildland conflagration.

To acquire the Associate of Science Degree in Wildland Fire Technology, it is necessary to complete the graduation requirements of the College along with the following:

**Required core courses (21 Units):**

<u>COURSE NUMBER</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>UNITS</u>
WFT 101	Wildland Fire Behavior	3
WFT 102	Wildland Fire Fighter Safety and Survival	3
WFT 103	Wildland Fire Operations (Ground, Air)	3
WFT 104	Wildland Fire Public Information Officer, Prevention, and Investigation	3
WFT 105	Wildland Fire Logistics, Finance, and Planning	3
FAC 43.60	Wildland Fire Academy	6

**Plus a minimum of 6 units selected from the following:**

<u>COURSE NUMBER</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>UNITS</u>
FAC 044	Physical Fitness and Ability for the Fire Fighter	4
FTECH 107	Hazardous Materials I	3
FTECH 108	Hazardous Materials II	3
EMT 093	Emergency Medical Technician	7

**WILDLAND FIRE TECHNOLOGY**  
(Certificate of Achievement)

The Certificate of Achievement in Wildland Fire Technology offers the required courses and learning domains for students to apply for employment with wild land firefighting agencies such as the United States Forest Service; California Department of Forestry; United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management; National Park Service, as well as municipal fire departments.

To acquire the Certificate of Achievement in Wildland Fire Technology, it is necessary to complete the following:

**Required core courses (21 Units):**

<b>COURSE NUMBER</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>UNITS</b>
WFT 101	Wildland Fire Behavior	3
WFT 102	Wildland Fire Fighter Safety and Survival	3
WFT 103	Wildland Fire Operations (Ground, Air)	3
WFT 104	Wildland Fire Public Information Officer, Prevention, and Investigation	3
WFT 105	Wildland Fire Logistics, Finance, and Planning	3
FAC 43.60	Wildland Fire Academy	6

**Plus a minimum of 6 units selected from the following:**

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