



**National Advanced Fire & Resource Institute**  
Managed By The U.S. Forest Service

3265 East Universal Way, Tucson, Arizona 85706  
Phone 520-799-8787 • Fax 520-799-8785 • [www.nafri.gov](http://www.nafri.gov)

**File Code:** 5100  
**Route To:**

**Date:** May 2, 2008

**Subject:** S-590 Advanced Fire Behavior Interpretation

**To:** Chair, Geographic Area Coordinating Group

The National Advanced Fire and Resource Institute (NAFRI) is issuing the call letter for nominations to the 2010 S-590 Advanced Fire Behavior Interpretation course scheduled for March 2010 in Tucson Arizona. We have experienced success with the S-590 mentoring program prior to an individual's attendance at S-590. With this success, NAFRI is calling for S-590 nominations and are requesting the Geographic Areas utilize both the 2008 and the 2009 fire seasons.

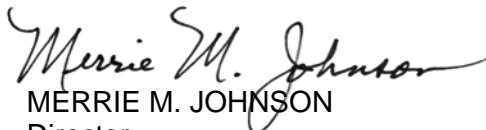
By establishing a mentoring program two fire seasons in advance of the course, the S-590 candidates will have increased opportunities to gain experience, training and exposure to complex incidents and long-term assessments. The candidates will also have ample time to preview any related course material and decide if attendance at the course is their desire. In addition, the mentoring process will enable the geographic areas to assess the readiness of the candidates to attend S-590.

As outlined on the attached flow process, potential S-590 course candidates are identified by each Geographic Area Coordinating Group, with the assistance of their Geographic Area Training Representative (GATR). NAFRI will begin to accept nominations through established procedures with the issuance of this letter. The mentoring process is initiated by the S-590 nominee accepting assignments as a Behave Technical Specialist on incidents with a Fire Behavior Analyst (FBAN) or Long Term Fire Analyst (LTAN). This will provide experience on the use of the fire behavior tools prior to attending the S-590 Course.

For additional information on the S-590 mentor program, NAFRI has produced a video explaining the process. Go to the S-590 course description on the NAFRI.gov web site.

The attached S-590 Candidate-Mentor Documentation form provides guidance to both the mentor and the S-590 candidate to focus on tasks for their preparation to take the 2010 S-590 course. This optional form can also assist with providing feedback.

Nominations should be submitted according to the established nomination process to Cyndie Hogg, S-590 Course Coordinator. Cyndie can be reached at NAFRI by phone 520-799-8753 or email [chogg@fs.fed.us](mailto:chogg@fs.fed.us).

  
MERRIE M. JOHNSON  
Director

Enclosure

## S-590 CANDIDATE MENTOR PROCESS

In order to assure an adequate supply of highly qualified Fire Behavior Analyst (FBAN) and Long Term Fire Analyst (LTAN) candidates for future wildland fire incident management and fire use teams, the following steps are deemed necessary:

- Geographic Area Coordinating Groups (GACG) take a nationally consistent and active role in the identification, prioritization and nomination of prospective candidates. Use of their GA training working teams and GA Training Representatives is recommended.
- Current Fire Behavior Analysts (FBAN) and Long-Term Fire Analysts (LTAN) take an active role in the mentoring of identified candidates.
- “Mentoring” should provide candidates with meaningful experiences as a Behavior Technical Specialist (BHAV) provided by committed and qualified FBAN and LTAN individuals.

The National Advanced Fire and Resource Institute (NAFRI), GACGs, FBANs and LTANs are responsible for the following:

TASK	WHO	WHEN
1. Issue call letter to GACGs for potential s-590 candidates.	NAFRI	April 2008
2. Identify interested candidates with potential to successfully complete S-590 and submit their nomination to NAFRI.	GACG	Ongoing
3. Notification of candidates with a cc to GACG's.	NAFRI	Ongoing
4. Facilitate mentoring process by assigning candidates to appropriate FBANs and LTANs.	GACG	Ongoing
5. Take BHAV assignments.	S-590 nominee	Fire Season 2008 & 2009
6. Provide meaningful BHAV assignments and mentoring to candidates including periodic assessments.	FBAN/LTAN	Fire Season 2008 & 2009
7. Initiate Pre-course work and notify GACG's and candidates.	NAFRI	January 2009
8. Reconfirm prioritization of final candidates by position.	GACG	November 2009
9. Send Pre-Course Test and notify GACG's and candidates.	NAFRI	November 2009
10. Provide prioritization of final candidates by position	GATR	November 2009
11. Final selection of candidates to attend S-590 course.	NAFRI	January 2010
12. Send Pre-Course Work and notify GACG's and candidates.	NAFRI	January 2010
13. Host pre-course meeting with FBANs, LTANs, students, and GATR's.	GACG	January 2010
14. Conduct S-590 course.	NAFRI	March 2010



# NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP

National Interagency Fire Center  
3833 S. Development Avenue  
Boise, Idaho 83705

## Memorandum

April 25, 2005

To: NWCG Members and Geographic Area Coordinating Groups

From: NWCG Chair *Kirk Powell*

Subject: S-590 Mentoring Program and Technical Specialist Positions

The Advanced Fire Behavior Interpretation (S-590) Steering Committee is an interagency committee assigned to manage this training course in conjunction with the National Advanced Fire and Resource Institute (NAFRI). The Steering Committee requested NAFRI establish a two-year mentoring program for S-590 candidates prior to their attendance at the S-590 Advanced Fire Behavior Interpretation, course in 2006. This mentoring program includes providing meaningful incident assignments for the S-590 candidates. The National Advanced Fire and Resource Institute (NAFRI) has experienced increased success with Advanced Incident Management (S-520) and Area Command (S-620) students involved in a mentoring program prior to their attendance at these national level courses. In order to further capitalize on this success, a mentoring program has now been established for S-590 candidates.

The goal of this mentoring program is for S-590 candidates to have increased opportunities to gain experience, training and exposure to complex incidents and long-term assessments in the two years prior to course attendance. The candidates would also have ample time to preview any related course material and decide if attendance at the course is their desire. The mentoring program would enable the geographic areas to assess the readiness of the candidates to attend the course. In addition, it gives incidents and geographic areas the ability to utilize established technical specialists to assist the Fire Behavior Analyst (FBAN) and Long Term Analyst (LTAN). And, finally, the future FBAN and LTAN can practice their Behave and Long-Term Analysis skills after attending S-490 Advanced Wildland Fire Behavior Calculations, S-492 Long Term Fire Risk Assessment, and S-493 FARSITE: Fire Growth Simulation courses.

In order to provide these meaningful assignments, the S-590 Steering Committee requested, through the Incident Operations Standards Working Team and the Position Naming Board, the establishment of three technical positions.

The three technical specialists were established, as outlined below with the required training and position duties for each:

Technical Specialist: FARSITE Specialist (FARS)  
Required Training: S-493 FARSITE: Fire Growth Simulation  
Position Duties: specialist in running FARSITE computer program

Technical Specialist: RERAP Specialist (RRAP)  
Required Training: S-492 Long Term Fire Risk Assessment  
Position Duties: specialist in running RERAP computer program

Technical Specialist: Behave Specialist (BHAV)  
Required Training: S-490 Advanced Wildland Fire Behavior Calculations  
Position Duties: specialist in running BehavePlus computer program

These positions were approved and entered into the Incident Qualifications and Certification System, with data transference to ROSS, to enable the candidates for S-590 in 2006 to perform their mentoring assignments this coming season. A list of these candidates is on the NAFRI web site at [www.nafri.gov](http://www.nafri.gov).

Any additional questions can be addressed to your representative on the S-590 Steering Committee or to Cyndie Hogg, the S-590 Course Coordinator at NAFRI.

cc: NWCG Working Team and Advisory Group Chairs