



Nebraska Firefighter Type 1 and Engine Boss Equivalency

Overview

Nebraska Volunteer Fire Departments are the primary organizations which suppress wildfires in Nebraska. As wildfire seasons in Nebraska continue to be prolonged and increasing in severity, it is crucial that these firefighters are recognized nationally and by the state as qualified wildland firefighters.

The National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) has created the Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide (PMS-310-1) which states, in detail, how firefighters become nationally qualified in specific firefighting positions. All agencies and states must abide by these guidelines in order to be qualified as firefighters under NWCG guidelines.

The Nebraska Forest Service (NFS) serves as the *Agency Having Jurisdiction* and *Certifying Agency* for Nebraska. NFS has adopted the PMS 310-1 and its qualification standards for evaluating Nebraska firefighters for qualification.

Due to the lack of NWCG/PMS 310-1 qualified firefighters in Nebraska, Volunteer Firefighters are not getting opportunities to preform taskbook tasks in front of qualified Final Evaluators. Thus, taskbooks are expiring before firefighters can perform tasks in front of qualified Final Evaluators. PMS 310-1 states, "A Final Evaluator must be qualified in the Trainee position they are evaluating" (PMS 310-1, pg 16).

Nebraska has many Volunteer Firefighters which have the skills, knowledge, and experience to be qualified as Firefighter Type 1 (FFT1) and Engine Boss (ENGB). However, Nebraska does not currently have an infrastructure of qualified Final Evaluators to properly certify these Trainee taskbooks.

Solution

PMS 310-1 recognizes that qualified structural firefighters possess essential skills which are needed in the wildland firefighting area. Thus, NWCG has created the *Skills Crosswalk* to help recognize the skills and experience of structure firefighters. "By implementing the *Crosswalk* protocol, wildland fire protection capacity and capability will be increased throughout the nation" (FEMA/NWCG, Skills Crosswalk, pg. 1). Capacity and capability are both areas Nebraska must grow in within the wildland fire arena.

The *Crosswalk* protocol allows structural firefighters to achieve FFT1 and ENGB National qualification:

Structural Fire Counterpart Position	Entering Qualifications	NWCG Position
Non-Supervisory Structural Firefighter, Advanced	Meets NFPA standard 1001 for Firefighter 2, or equivalency	Firefighter Type 1 (FFT1)
Driver/Operator/Engineer or Company Officer	Meets NFPA standard 1021 for Fire Officer 1, or equivalency	Engine Boss, Single Resource (ENGB)

PMS 310-1 pg. 2

The Nebraska Forest Service recognizes the suggested structural qualifications of Firefighter 2 for NWCG position Firefighter Type 1 and Fire Officer 1 for Engine Boss. However, as the *Agency Having Jurisdiction* and *Certifying Agency* for Nebraska, PMS 310-1 also gives NFS the authority to implement the *Crosswalk* according to knowledge, experience, and skills deemed to be Equivalent.

The Nebraska Forest Service supports utilizing the *Crosswalk Equivalency* in order to grow Volunteer Fire Department qualifications throughout the state. Recognizing that Nebraska Volunteer Firefighters are both skilled and trained as structure firefighters will allow NFS to utilize the *Crosswalk*. Increasing the capacity and capability of Nebraska within the wildfire arena.

Increasing the number nationally recognized FFT1 and ENGB qualified firefighters in Nebraska will create an increase in Final Evaluators for PMS 310-1's primary qualification process for completing taskbooks. The *Crosswalk* will also create opportunities for Nebraska Volunteer Fire Departments to utilize the Great Plains Interagency Fire Compact. Through this compact, Nebraska firefighters will assist compact members, gain valuable suppression skills, grow additional qualifications, and bring these experiences and qualifications back to Nebraska. Thus, growing Nebraska's capability and capacity for suppressing wildfires.

Skills Crosswalk Implementation

Starting January 1, 2017, Nebraska Volunteer Firefighters may submit the documentation listed below to the Nebraska Forest Service and will be considered for the National certification as FFT1 or ENGB. This will be a 5 year initiative that will end December 31, 2022. At that time, NFS hopes an appropriate infrastructure of Final Evaluators has been created in order to implement all NWCG taskbooks throughout the state.

Nebraska's Crosswalk Equivalency Requirements:

Firefighter Type 1

- 1) Submit copy of Structural Firefighter Type 1 Certificate
- 2) Meet PMS 310-1's Training Requirements
 - a. S190, S130, S133, S131, ICS 100, IS 700

- 3) 2 Years of experience on Fire Department
- 4) Documented Response to at least 10 wildfires functioning as FFT1 or higher

Engine Boss

- 1) Submit copy of Structural Firefighter Type 1 Certificate
- 2) Meet PMS 310-1's Training Requirements
 - a. S190, S130, S133, S131, ICS 100, IS 700 (FFT1)
 - b. S230, S290, ICS 200 (ENGB)
- 3) 5 Years of experience on Fire Department
- 4) Documented Response to at least 15 wildfires functioning as ENGB or higher.



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Nebraska Forest Service

Effective Date: 11-22-16

Nebraska FFT1 and ENGB Equivalency Documentation and Application

Name: _____

Fire Department: _____

The Nebraska Forest Service is implementing the *Skills Crosswalk Equivalency* as written in the Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide (pg. 2). The purpose of the *Crosswalk* is to recognize the skills, training, and experience of structure firefighters and assist them in gaining wildland fire qualification. As the Agency Having Jurisdiction and the Certifying Agency for Nebraska, the Nebraska Forest Service will be implementing the *Skills Crosswalk* according to the knowledge, experience, and skills deemed to be equivalent. Implementation will help increase the capacity and capability of Nebraska Firefighters as they will become Nationally Certified upon properly submitting the full documentation as listed below:

**Applicants must submit certificate copies of Structure Firefighter 1 and
Wildfire Class Certificates.**

Equivalency Checklist

Qualification	Structure Qualification	Wildfire Classes	Years of Experience	Documented Fires
Firefighter Type 1 (FFT1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Firefighter 1 Structure Qualified	<input type="checkbox"/> S190 <input type="checkbox"/> S130 <input type="checkbox"/> S133 <input type="checkbox"/> S131 <input type="checkbox"/> ICS 100 <input type="checkbox"/> IS 700	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 years of experience on Fire Department	<input type="checkbox"/> 10 Documented wildfires as FFT1 or higher (Document Below)
Engine Boss (ENGB)	<input type="checkbox"/> Firefighter 1 Structure Qualified	<input type="checkbox"/> S190 <input type="checkbox"/> S130 <input type="checkbox"/> S133 <input type="checkbox"/> S131 <input type="checkbox"/> ICS 100 <input type="checkbox"/> IS 700 <input type="checkbox"/> S230 <input type="checkbox"/> S290 <input type="checkbox"/> ICS 200	<input type="checkbox"/> 5 years of experience on Fire Department	<input type="checkbox"/> 15 Documented wildfires as ENGB or higher (Document below)

All Boxes must be checked and documented proof submitted to be considered for position qualification.

Wildfire Experience Documentation for Equivalency

Name: _____ Fire Department: _____

Date	Incident Name or Number	Size	Position on Fire (FFT1, ENGB, etc.)	Comments
1)				
2)				
3)				
4)				
5)				
6)				
7)				
8)				
9)				
10)				
11)				
12)				
13)				
14)				
15)				
16)				
17)				



Nebraska FFT1 and ENGB Equivalency Documentation and Application

I, _____ (applicant), have verified and declare that all wildfire experience documented to true. I am confident in my knowledge, experience, and skills to be Nationally Qualified in the qualifying position. With this application, I will submit copies of my Structure Firefighter 1 and Wildfire Class certificates needed for qualification.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Chief/Supervisor Signature: _____ Date: _____

Submission:

Nebraska Forest Service
Wildfire Program
Forestry Hall
P.O. Box 830815
Lincoln, NE 68583-0815

*Or contact your nearest Nebraska Forest Service Training Specialist.