



Course Announcement

S-491: Intermediate National Fire Danger Rating System



Course Dates: October 20-24, 2025

Course Location: NAFRI – Tucson, AZ

NAFRI Course Coordinator: Liz Figgins, liz.figgins@nafri.gov

Course Description:

During this course, students develop knowledge of the inputs, calculations, and outputs for the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS). They learn skills necessary to maintain their local NFDRS products and to interpret and apply the results on their home unit. Course lectures and exercises support practical and technical application of complex subject matter. This course will be presented using a hybrid delivery.

Objective:

Upon completion of this course the student will demonstrate the knowledge and skills necessary to operate, apply, and manage the National Fire Danger Rating System.

Target Group:

The course lessons and exercises support training for dispatchers and others charged with using FEMS weather data for NFDRS calculations, fire management staff who apply NFDRS outputs to decision-making, fire practitioners who update and maintain Fire Danger Operating Plans, and fire behavior specialists who incorporate NFDRS products into assessments and projections.

Total Hours:

- Pre-Course Online Component: 20 hours of asynchronous and synchronous learning
- Classroom instruction: 36 hours
- This course will be presented using a hybrid delivery method. The self-paced Pre-Course Online Component will be completed via the Wildland Fire Learning Portal. The in-person portion of the course will take place at NAFRI. Course materials will be made available on the NWCG Wildland Fire Learning Portal.

Prerequisites:

- Demonstrate at least intermediate skills with Microsoft Windows operating systems.
- Successful completion of Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior (S290).
- Successful completion of the Pre-Course Online Component with a minimum passing score of 80%.

Important Dates:

- Nominations are open until **May 15, 2025** at 2000 mtn.
- Pre-Course Online Component opens **June 16** and must be completed by **September 30, 2025**.
- Three Office hours sessions will be held to assist students with questions as they work through the Pre-Course material. Dates for these sessions will be included in the Pre-Selection letter.
- Final selections will be determined no later than October 3, 2025.
- Class starts at 0800 AZ Time on October 20 and will end at 12:00 PM on October 24, 2025.

Additional information and links will be shared in the S-491 Pre-selection letter. The Pre-selection letter will be sent out by **June 16, 2025**.

Nominations:

Please complete the S-491 Nomination Form found here: [FY26 S-491 Course Nomination Form](#)
For more information on this course, please visit the WFLP Course Page: [S-491 Course Page](#)