

Torchbearr
Prescribed Fire / Fire Crewmember (RXCM)

COURSE CATALOG

Class Year
January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2024
Classroom
Yreka, CA 96097

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Mission of The Institution

The mission of the Torchbearr prescribed fire/ fire crewmember is to provide training and confidence, and to qualify students to National Wildfire Coordinating Group standards in becoming a Fire Practitioner/ Firefighter. Provide a local and national workforce in an Equitable Workforce Development Training Program.



Program Goals

The goal of Torchbearr is to produce competent, entry-level prescribed fire/ fire fighters. This training program and resulting crew are also intended to create a prescribed fire/ fire/ fuels workforce. Crew members will meet the United States Department of Labor's Standard Occupational Classification of Fire Fighter. Prescribed Fire / Fire Crewmember (RXCM)

Program Objectives

At the completion of the program the student via exams and daily work duties will be able to demonstrate their ability to Practical exams, enter a Prescribed Fire / Fire crew member job and fulfill the role of an entry-level Firefighter.

Torchbearr

Prescribed Fire / Fire Crewmember (RXCM)

Statement of History and Ownership

Torchbearr was established in October of 2021 by Erica Terence and Scot Steinbring after many years working in fire. Scot has over 34 years of forestry and fire experience, and Erica has spent the past 16 years of her career at conservation non-profits in roles ranging from volunteer to leader. Scot is an NWCG-qualified Division Supervisor, Type 2 Burn Boss, and Fire Instructor. Erica is a Fireline qualified PIOF (Public Information Officer Fireline) and seasoned non-profit worker.

Mr. Steinbring was a Fire Management officer of fuels/Fire programs 2017 through 2022 where he managed fires in Northern California and Southern California and is still active in a Type 2 Incident Management Team, Not including in many other states, and countries.

Mr. Steinbring has overseen a fire staff of approximately 450, managed Fires, Prescribed Burns, managed fuels.

Scot Steinbring is also employed by TNC, to manage Prescribed fire projects, Fuels contracts and conduct various other classes in California, Oregon, and Washington, New Mexico in his 34 years of Fire/Forestry experience.

Torchbearr formed with the mission of promoting prescribed fire use for a brighter fire future for all. We employ classroom and hands-on training, burning, a prescribed fire qualifications clearinghouse, and other educational tools like events to accomplish this mission.

Torchbearr provides professional services as Prescribed Fire / forestry consultants Fuels management throughout the western United States. Partners vary from private and State and small to large landowners.

Torchbearr also has partners that are invested in and supportive of the organization's mission, such as Siskiyou Fire Safe Council, Shasta Valley Resource District, Scott River Watershed Council, Siskiyou Prescribed Burn Association, California Indian Basketweavers Association, Mid Klamath Watershed Council, North Coast Resource Partnership, Quartz Valley Tribe, Konkow Tribe, Salmon River Restoration Council, Watershed Research and Training Center, Amah Mutsun Tribe, Esselen Tribe, Central Coast Prescribed Burn Association, National Weather Service, California Forest Landowners Association and Cal Fire.

In brief, the purpose of Torchbearr is to promote prescribed burning. Our longer view mission is to work for a brighter fire future for all. Torchbearr builds capacity for, implements, and advocates a smarter, safer, and more economical fire future, by creating a mobile prescribed training venue and workforce. Torchbearr works with partners and landowners to do more beneficial prescribed burning at every scale. A key part of our prescribed fire movement is to create cultural change that supports increased prescribed burning as a strategy to decrease the need to suppress or fight fires. We use tactics including classroom education, hands-on training and burning, coordinated coalition building, and educational events like Fire Fridays to accomplish our mission.

Torchbearr

Prescribed Fire / Fire Crewmember (RXCM)

Torchbearr was founded and incorporated in the state of California in 2021. The organization began when firefighter Scot Steinbring and career conservation non-profit worker Erica Terence brought their 48-plus years of combined experience and skills to bear on fire practice and non-profit management by forming this change agent. Scot has been working in fire since he was 18, when someone asked if he wanted a job on a fire truck and he's stayed on that path for 32 years, always observing and often learning by doing every possible job in incident management and fire management. Erica has performed vital roles throughout non-profits ranging from volunteer to leader for the past 16 years.

It is not only their experience, skills and qualifications that make these two individuals the right ones to form, lead and grow Torchbearr. Their integrity, tenacity, and outspoken nature make them the right people for this desperately needed job that no one else is doing.

The non-profit organization called Torchbearr (yes, with a double r) formed to help close this capacity gap and empower people to learn and burn together to protect our families, communities, and natural resources. As previously stated, the new group aims to make a brighter fire future for all. To do that, the organization will create a mobile training center, build partnerships, and seek opportunities to burn at small and large scales with partners.

Torchbearr also intends to develop a workforce that can begin to reintroduce fire on our landscapes strategically on a meaningful scale. And, Torchbearr plans to develop and maintain a clearinghouse of prescribed fire training, experience, and qualifications that will issue, hold, and deactivate purple cards for prescribed burn practitioners specifically.

While Torchbearr is in the final stages of forming its organization, with 501 (c)3 tax exempt recognition from the IRS pending, the group is launching some early initiatives in collaboration with the Siskiyou Prescribed Burn Association, Scott River Watershed Council, and the Quartz Valley Indian Reservation as well as the California Indian Basketweaves Association.

If we're going to undo the damage one hundred years of fire suppression has done, we'll need accessible training and students of fire from many backgrounds – not just fire agencies - stepping up and leveling up. Whether you need basic fire school, a fire safety refresher, a work capacity test, or a more specialized session in operating equipment like pumps, hoses, drip torches, hand tools, and fire engines, here's a chance to develop your fire awareness and skills and get involved in the movement to safely bring prescribed fire back to our land.

Facilities

Torchbearr operates out of Yreka, CA. Field training will be conducted at various private timberlands. Our classrooms are in a virtual format or in-person with the option of also having a classroom in Yreka, California. Torchbearr has no responsibility to find or assist a student in finding housing nor do we provide dorms.

Education Program

Prescribed Fire / Fire Crewmember (RXCM) will be prepared to become a vital technician for any Fire/fuels company throughout the West. Students must successfully complete and pass the approved program, written, safety practicum, and skills testing. As a prospective student, you are encouraged to

Torchbearr

Prescribed Fire / Fire Crewmember (RXCM)

review this catalog prior to signing an enrollment agreement. You are also encouraged to review the School Performance Fact Sheet, which must be provided to you prior to signing an enrollment agreement.

Description of the Profession

Prescribed Fire / Fire Crewmembers (RXCM) that have fulfilled requirements according to National agency standards will have assistance from Torchbearr in locating prospective jobs in the nation. They will be trained on how to do fuels reduction, Fireline construction, water Handling , boundary line flagging, and fuels and wildlife inventories, as well as in conducting safe and effective firing operations. The student will be instructed on the uses of compasses ,GPS units, reading topographic maps as well as Forest Service maps. Other skills they will acquire include introducing fire with drip torches, use of hand tools, chainsaws, chippers, driver's safety training, pump use, home fire protection, home hardening, and performance of defensible space inspections in Siskiyou County (with the potential to adapt to other areas).

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

The Prescribed Fire / Fire Crewmember (RXCM) program will be a challenge not only physically but mentally as well. It is fast paced, intense, and always requires your full attention in conjunction with your participation as well as your complete dedication. Our focus is to train you to be productive, effective, and efficient. It is designed so that you will be truly tested under the same circumstances that you will experience, depending on what time of year you train, or when you are employed in forestry. You should be prepared to be working in cold, rainy, and snowy weather day in and day out. You will endure hot and humid weather conditions. You will be stung by bees, hornets, and wasps. You will encounter bears, other animals, and snakes. You will work in places that have poison oak. The terrain will be steep and brushy at times or all the time. You will be trained to work in adverse weather conditions on rugged terrain. Graduating from this class with a Torchbearr, And NWCG certificate is an indication to those companies that you're applying to that you have been trained to handle what Prescribed Fire / Fire Crewmember (RXCM) are expected to handle. For those that graduate this program, you will leave with a solid foundation to build on for years to come.



Torchbearr Prescribed Fire / Fire Crewmember (RXCM)

The focus is to train you in circumstances, situations, in the environment a Prescribed Fire / Fire Crewmember (RXCM) will have once employed. We look for those that can work as a team and can work and be comfortable working alone. Forestry Technicians mostly work alone but require you to work in a team environment. In our Beginning Prescribed Fire / Fire Crewmember (RXCM) program, you will be monitored on how well you work with others and how well you work alone. The forestry profession plans, and circumstances change and sometimes with little notice. This program will train you on how to adjust, be flexible and how you can fully prepare for this.

If your sole purpose for wanting to get into Prescribed Fire / Fire Crewmember (RXCM) is to experience the outdoors to be closer to nature, please keep in mind you will not have paths to walk on and there are no picnic tables. The Beginning Prescribed Fire/ Fire program will be as difficult as being a Firefighter when you are employed.

Each morning we expect our students to be ready and prepared as if they are ready to work at the start time of every class. Students will be responsible for bringing their own lunch and water. We will expect the student to be fully prepared, with equipment, notes, maps, pencils, pens, boots laced up and instructional handouts when the second class begins. We will not make special trips to the store during class time. We will not tie up class time for a student that is running late or who isn't prepared. The Prescribed Fire/ Fire program also reserves the right to give tests, exams, and pop quizzes without notice. Homework and/or reading assignments should be expected.

This program requires the completion of 40-180 hours to become a Qualified Firefighter. The participant will also be required to volunteer 80 community hours prior to graduation.

There will be classroom instruction along with field instruction demonstrating the uses of the equipment necessary and being tested weekly if not daily.

The program is represented as follows:

Prescribed Fire/ Fire 180 hours



This addresses the following topics:

- S-110 Basic Wildland Fire Orientation 15 min
- S-130 Firefighter Training, 2021 37 Hours
- S-190 Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior, 2020 7 Hours
- L-180 Human Factors in the Wildland Fire Service 4 Hours
- S-211 Portable Pumps and Water Use, 2012 16 Hours



- S-212 Wildland Fire Chainsaws, 2012 24 Hours
- S-219 Firing Operations, 2014 18 Hours
- S-290 Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior, 2007 37 Hours
- S-131 Firefighter Type 1, 2016 11 Hours
- L-280 Followership to Leadership, 2008 20 Hours
- Pack Test 01 Hours
- GPS for unit mapping and calculating area 4 Hours
- ICS 100 Introduction to the Incident Command System 2 Hours

- IS-700 An Introduction National Incident Management 3.5 Hours

Torchbearr Prescribed Fire / Fire Crewmember (RXCM)

EXAMINATIONS AND GRADING

Our program gives each student the experience of field training. Approximately 70% of our program is field training, while the remainder is classroom time. Typically, the classroom time is spent given written tests based on prior training. We give several tests to make sure that each student understands the training and provides gauges to the instructors on areas we need to reinforce. Classroom time is spent explaining what they can expect for the day. It allows students to ask questions and instructors can draw examples on the dry board. The office is also a place for each student to keep notes and other desk materials. The classroom is typically a place to meet and debrief.

ADMISSION

STANDARDS AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students must be 18 years of age and provide their resume with a cover letter. Students must also hand write a letter, 4 paragraphs in length, why they are interested in joining the class. A driving record print out of at least 3 years is required if the student has been driving that long. Each student is to have one interview by the Director of Operations, Director of Planning or Board member.

Required: Each student is to purchase work boots, gloves, and a hard hat.

Recommendation: Backpack, Water container long sleeve shirt, Durable Pants, Nomex Pants/Shirt

To pass the Prescribed fire Technician program, the student must be able to pass the NWCG National standard test.

The student will also need to pass the Field Day/ Packtest for successful completion of Fire School.

The student will need to pass the form class and 70% measurements along with using at least 6 different basal area factors. The student will need to use the power tools, Hand tools.



Torchbearr

Prescribed Fire / Fire Crewmember (RXCM)

Students can expect the Prescribed fire Technician program to be physically and mentally demanding. We highly recommend being physically in shape prior to starting this program. The Training Program Catalog will be updated annually during the month of January. A catalog can be mailed or emailed to anyone interested in the training program.

It is the student's responsibility to arrive at the facility. The Prescribed fire Technician Program will provide transportation from the facility to the field for training and will bring students back to the facility.

Students will not be allowed to drive their own vehicle to the field unless special circumstances exist and approved by the Director.

Training dates for 2022: Oct 1st through April 6th
Location: Yreka, Scott Valley, Mt Shasta, Weed,

Training hours:

Monday- through Friday 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM returning to the facility may vary depending on drive time from field training location. We also reserve the right to go longer if a test is given.

You can expect to use the following equipment for training:

- Compasses**
- Forest Service Maps**
- Pens/Pencils/highlighters Copy machine**
- Desk and chairs**
- Topographical maps**
- Forestry Flagging**
- Two-way radios**
- Field binders**
- Note pads**
- Garmin (GPS)**
- Ipad**



We provide transportation to the field and back to classroom

Library, learning resources and procedures available. Students will be supplied with the necessary equipment and material needed to pass the program. Torchbearr Provides all student workbooks and owns an assortment of books and other forestry/Fire related educational/supportive reading material that will be made available to loan or review to students upon request. Torchbearr's instructional staff will also give students topics to research via the internet when the need arises. For students that don't have access to the internet they can team up with other students that do have access to the internet. Homework will be assigned as needed and material will be furnished to accomplish such assignments. Students will always have the necessary information to research related topics. Books and other equipment can be loaned for 1 night. students are encouraged to own a Computer , access can be granted for classroom use only. But all needed material for study will be provided to the student.

Torchbearr Prescribed Fire / Fire Crewmember (RXCM)

Each student will be expected to select prime site trees by health characteristics. The students will turn in marking cards that are legible and consistent with trees marked. The students will be expected to read location posters, Forest Service, Topographical, project maps and navigate both in day and nighttime. The students will need to identify different fuels mitigation methods.

Each student will be able to identify silviculture and the principles of unit layout, along with the fundamentals of fuels and fire. Each student will need to pass all training at 70%. The students will be expected to use a Garmin handheld GPS for unit mapping and must be able to calculate the area. Each student will be expected to demonstrate how to conduct an interview as it pertains to Prescribed fire/ Fire. Each student is expected to understand the safety concerns in Fire suppression.

Social Media

Website <https://www.torchbearr.org/>
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/torchbearr.torchbearr>
Twitter <https://twitter.com/TorchbearrOrg>
Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/torchbearr/>
Linkedin <https://www.linkedin.com/in/torchbearr/>

Registration	Tuition	Total
\$125.00	\$5,200.00	\$5,447.00

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Prescribed Fire / Fire Crewmember (RXCM)



Slater Fire, Happy Camp CA 2020

Fawn Fire , Redding CA 2021



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River Complex 2021



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