



ARIZONA DFFM PRIORITY TRAINEE PROGRAM - 2021

OPEN PERIOD: February 20 through March 20, 2021

The Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management (DFFM) Priority Trainee Program operates separately from the Southwest Area Priority Trainee Program. The Southwest Priority Trainee Program works in collaboration with the national GATR Group and focuses on succession planning for Incident Management Teams and for Incident support in general. The DFFM Priority Trainee Program utilizes the overhead requests sent to the Arizona Dispatch Center under normal dispatching processes when no Priority Trainees (from the SW Geographic Area Priority List) are available.

The DFFM Program facilitates an efficient streamlined deployment of trainees and bolsters a growing workforce of qualified personnel for State and local mobilization as well as a readiness to support national needs. The DFFM Program identifies the trainees who:

- Meet the current NWCG requirements for a trainee.
- Are actively pursuing qualification in the position.
- Are available.

The Arizona Fire Chiefs Association Trainee Committee and DFFM have selected the positions in this program to:

- Strengthen State and Local capacity for Incident Support in these positions
- Develop workforce for Incident Management Team mobilization
- Provide for professional development of individuals with wildland qualifications

Definition of a Priority Trainee

Someone serving in a trainee position that is in critical need of completing “on incident” training (i.e. wildland assignments) to: (1) Strengthen these positions for State and local response, (2) build workforce to fulfill incident management team shortage (3) Provide opportunity for professional development.

Priority Trainee Program positions included this year:

Command	Operations	Air Ops	Logistics	Planning	Finance	Investigation
ICT3	OPS3	SEMG	LSC3	PSC3	FSC3	INVF
ICT4	TFLD	RAMP	SPUL	DMOB	COST	
SOFR	STEN	FWPT	COML	RESL	TIME	
PIOF	HEQB	UASP	GSUL	DOCL	PTRC	
LOFR	FIRB		ORDM	SITL	EQTR	
			RCDM	SCKN		
			COMT			
			BCMG			
			RADO			



IROC Availability

Priority Trainees are responsible to ensure their status/availability is accurate in IROC. Priority Trainees will be mobilized according to the highest priority trainee, who has not yet been contacted, with "Available National" status in IROC. The Priority Trainee will be contacted for assignments according to their availability in IROC as outlined below. If the trainee is listed as "Unavailable" in IROC, the trainee will not be contacted by the Arizona Dispatch Center for a Priority Trainee assignment. The following are guidelines for availability

- Available National – the trainee will be eligible for Priority Trainee assignments nationally
- Available GACC – the trainee will be eligible for Priority Trainee assignments within the SW Region
- Available Local – the trainee will be utilized locally for incident response and for IMT deployment

Any trainees identified and nominated for the program should be available for a minimum of 1 assignment throughout the season (14+ consecutive days). The following guidelines will be used for those declining assignment when showing "**Available National**" in IROC

1. Upon first declination of an assignment, and with a reasonable explanation, the assignment will be awarded to the next available individual. Availability status will be corrected to "available local" or "unavailable." The trainee will update their status in IROC (or contact Dispatch to update for them) when they can accurately mark themselves as Available Nationally
2. Upon second declination of assignment, the trainee will be removed from the list for the remainder of the season.

Mobilization Process

The DFFM Priority Trainee Program will rank trainees against the requirements for certification in the position of interest; a trainee who has nearly completed the requirements for qualification will rank higher than a trainee who has recently started. When there is an opportunity for a trainee to mobilize within or outside of the Southwest Area, the Arizona Dispatch Center will utilize the Arizona Priority Trainee List before contacting firefighters who are not on the list.

With the exception of the ICT4 position, the priority trainee list will be a state-wide list that is utilized for extended attack of local, GACC and National mobilization for the identified positions. The ICT4 position will have a separate priority list for each District; which will be applied primarily during Initial Attack.



Application Process and Timelines

Priority Trainee Nomination forms are posted on the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management website <https://dffm.az.gov> or they may be requested directly by emailing Susan Burger or Krista Countryman @ AzRedCards@dffm.az.gov

Process: Submit the completed nomination form & ALL position task book pages

- (1) Submit the **WHOLE Task Book** if any training assignments have been completed
- (2) Submit only the Cover sheet if no training assignments have been completed.

Individuals may only nominate for one Priority Trainee Position. All nomination forms, and the supporting documentation, are to be submitted to: AzRedCards@dffm.az.gov

March 20, 2021 is the deadline to submit Nomination Forms and the supporting documentation.

Time Frame

Open nomination period for Priority Trainees:	February 20 th - March 20 th
Training Specialist validates submissions:	March 20 th - March 31 st
Compile list and post on DFFM web site:	April 1 st

NOTE: IF CANDIDATES RATE OUT AT THE SAME SCORE, THE AFCA TRAINING GROUP WILL DETERMINE THE FINAL RANKING.

The Arizona State Priority Trainee Program, in conjunction with the SWCG Priority Training Program, are the primary tools being utilized for career development, succession planning for incident response, and dispatch capacity as we develop the future of incident management in the State and in the Southwest.

Please contact Susan Burger at AzRedCards@dffm.az.gov or 623-474-1451 with questions.