



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS

Occupational Health, Safety and Medicine
Wildland Fire Fighting Safety and Response

1750 New York Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20006-5395

202-737-8484



IAFF RESPONDING TO THE INTERFACE

Basic Fire Fighter Safety for
Responding to the Urban Interface

Responding to the Urban Interface

As all-hazards responders, wildland urban interface (WUI) fire fighting is becoming part of the job for many fire departments, and not just in the western half of the continent. As the line separating urban, suburban and rural communities has blurred, urban interface fires are now threatening the entire East Coast. As of 2010, more than 99 million people live in the urban interface. And, as development in the urban interface continues to expand, the risk for disaster increases at a proportional rate.

According to NFPA, 88 percent of fire departments respond to urban interface fires, but only 40 percent provide urban interface fire training. Even when training exists, it often varies in the level, adequacy and consistency.

As part of the IAFF's efforts to provide better training for structural fire fighters who now also respond to urban interface fires, we have developed a comprehensive training program for specialized urban interface fire fighting that also focuses on the safety issues associated with urban interface response.

IAFF Responding to the Interface Training Program

The training program is designed to provide fire fighters and company officers a consistent basic understanding of safety, command and control, and strategy and tactics to use when defending structures from a wildland fire (defensive strategy) or suppressing a wildland fire in and around structures (offensive strategy).

The Responding to the Interface Awareness

- 10 hours online training: www.iaff.org/online-learning-center. The online course is provided at no cost.

Responding to the Interface (RTI) Class

- 2-Day Class
 - » Eight hours of classroom, review of online material and Final.
 - » Eight hours field training for hands-on manipulative and tactical training

The field training, provided by subject matter experts and delivered in your jurisdiction, is an opportunity to practice and apply the skills learned in the online course in the actual environment where fire fighters will be dispatched to your urban interface fires.

PREREQUISITE

The Responding to the Interface Awareness online. S-190 Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior (FEMA)

SUGGESTED

S-130 Fire Fighter Training (FEMA)

Responding to the Interface Train-the-Trainer Program

- Four-day class designed to train your instructors to train your fire fighters
- Program includes
 - » Two-day RTI Class
 - » Two-day RTI Train the Trainer
 - One classroom day of teachbacks and program overview
 - One field day to provide hands-on class delivery instructions



The RTI Training may be grant eligible.

At the conclusion of this program, fire fighters and company officers will have the basic skills needed to safely operate in the urban interface environment and successfully defend homes while suppressing interface fires.

IAFF Wildland Firefighting Safety and Response

Increasingly, dangerous urban interface fires are raging across the United States and Canada, becoming catastrophic with enormous loss of property and significant risk to human life. Consequently, IAFF members are faced with a variety of extraordinary challenges that will only worsen if not addressed.

The IAFF is making sure our members are equipped and trained to safely and effectively respond to the challenges of wildland and urban interface fires.

The International is providing resources and programs to help members who are responding to the threat to the urban interface, borderlands and areas within woodlands and urban areas. Visit www.iaff.org/wildland to access these resources.

For more information about the Responding to the Interface Program, contact the IAFF Health and Safety Operational Services at (202) 737-8484.

www.iaff.org/wildland