New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Division of Forest Protection and Fire Management, Region 7

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To: County Fire Coordinators, DEC Region 7

From: Captain Dave Brooks Date: January 13, 2009

Subject: Notice of on-line federal wildfire course sponsorship

To All,

The National Wildfire Coordinating Group has developed on-line and CD versions of basic federal wildland fire courses S-130 and S-190. The on-line version is free and the CD version of each course costs 95 cents plus S&H. Successful completion of these courses is required to become qualified as a wildland firefighter in the federal system. These two courses formed the basis for our development of the New York State "Basic Wildland Fire Suppression Course" several years ago.

The courses are estimated to take 12-36 hours (for S-130) and 6-8 hours (for S-190) respectively. Trainees taking S-130 during this sponsorship period will be required to attend a six hour field training day at the DEC office in Sherburne, NY to complete Module 13 of the S-130 course and obtain final certification. NYS Forest Rangers are hopeful these self-paced, on-line and CD versions will allow interested firefighters better opportunities to take this training. Previously, these courses were only offered in a classroom setting over several evening and weekend training sessions.

The period for enrolling in and completing the on-line or CD portion of these courses with NYS Forest Ranger sponsorship is January 15, 2009 through March 13, 2009. Up to 50 trainees will be sponsored to take this training during this period. Upon completion of the on-line/CD course work, firefighter trainees will be required to participate in the final field training module of S-130 (Module 13) at the DEC office in Sherburne, NY. The field training will be conducted on Saturday, March 14, 2009 and will be approximately six hours in duration. The exact time and location of the field training will be determined by the course administrators. Participants who successfully complete all course and field training on March 14th, and wish to be considered for temporary employment on a federally qualified wildland fire crew will be allowed to attend a safety refresher course and take the work capacity test on March 15th, also to be held in Sherburne, NY. The safety refresher training and work capacity tests are required annually to qualify as a federal wildland firefighter, but are not required to complete the courses.

Please pass this information on to the Fire Chief's and other interested parties in your county.

course or purchasing the CD version of these courses. The course administrators for the January-March sponsorship of these courses are:

James Prunoske, NYS Forest Ranger Sherburne, NY

Phone: (607) 316-3291

E-mail: jiprunos@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Jeremy Oldroyd Binghamton, NY

Phone: (607) 648-6247

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For links to access these courses and obtain more information go to: http://training.nwcg.gov/courses/130190faq.html

For more information on how to become a federally qualified wildland firefighter go to: http://training.nwcg.gov/twt/sect_firef_seasonal.htm

For more information on the work capacity test go to; http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/safety/wct/wct_index.html

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CC:

Broome County – Brett Chellis
Cayuga County – Jim Perkins
Chenango County – Matthew Beckwith
Cortland County – Bob Duell
Madison County – Joseph DeFrancisco
Onondaga County – Joseph Rinefierd
Oswego County – John R. Hinds