



El Camino College
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD – Official

Subject:	FTEC
Course Number:	173
Descriptive Title:	Wildland Fire Education, Prevention, and Investigation
Division:	Health Sciences and Athletics
Department:	Fire and Emergency Technology
Course Disciplines:	Fire and Emergency Technology
Catalog Description:	This course provides students with information and presentations to understand basic wildland fire education by exploring topics including Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl. Students are introduced to wildland fire prevention messaging using Public Service Announcements (PSA) by federal and state land management agencies. Students will examine wildland fire investigation procedures ranging from initial on scene evidence preservation to legal procedures in federal courts.
Prerequisite:	
Co-requisite:	
Recommended Preparation:	English C1000 or C1000H
Enrollment Limitation:	
Hours Lecture (per week):	3
Hours Laboratory (per week):	0
Outside Study Hours:	6
Total Course Hours:	54
Course Units:	3
Grading Method:	Letter Grade only
Credit Status:	Credit, degree applicable
Transfer CSU:	Yes
Effective Date:	
Transfer UC:	No
Effective Date:	
General Education ECC:	
Term:	
Other:	
CSU GE:	
Term:	
Other:	
IGETC:	
Term:	

Other:	
CalGETC:	
Term:	
Other:	
Student Learning Outcomes:	Upon completion of this course, students will be able to: 1. Describe the three Wildland Fire Prevention tools: Education, Engineering, and Enforcement. 2. Identify Smokey Bear's 5 Rules of Wildfire Prevention. 3. Examine wildfire investigation procedures using the chain of custody with evidence from a wildland fire.
Course Objectives:	1. List various causes of fires. 2. Perform the basic procedures and techniques needed to provide witness/observer information to fire investigators. 3. Demonstrate skills necessary to properly document and perform fire investigation. 4. Demonstrate how to identify and protect fire origin areas. 5. Demonstrate skills to effectively communicate fire prevention programs. 6. Demonstrate skills to effectively perform FIREWISE/Fire Safe Programs and fire prevention home evaluations. 7. Describe the purpose and importance of incident information. 8. Describe the roles, responsibilities, duties, skills, and characteristics of a Public Information Officer. 9. Describe how to collect and disseminate information. 10. Describe how to prepare a media interview.
Major Topics:	I. Prevention (Lecture, 6 Hours) A. History of Wildland Fires B. Prevention Outcomes C. Prevention Fundamentals D. Mitigation Planning E. National Wildland Fire Prevention Teams F. National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) II. Education (Lecture, 8 Hours) A. Wildland Fire Education Messaging B. Five Rules of Wildfire Prevention

- C. Smokey Bear
- D. Woodsy Owl
- E. Visitor Centers
- F. Schools and Field Trips
- G. Forest and Supervisor Headquarters
- H. National Wildland Fire Education Teams

III. Engineering (Lecture, 8 Hours)

- A. Fuels Management
- B. Fuels Treatments
- C. Fire Safe Councils
- D. Defensible Space
- E. Spark Arresters
- F. Trains and Railways
- G. Powerlines and Transformers
- H. Industrial Operations

IV. Enforcement (Lecture 6 Hours)

- A. Federal Law Enforcement Officers (LEO)
- B. Fire Use Restrictions
- C. Patrolling
- D. Tools and Resources
- E. Enforcement Safety
- F. Fire Permits
- G. Wildfire Citations

V. Wildfire Information (Lecture, 6 Hours)

- A. Inciweb Wildland Fire Information
- B. Incident Command Posts

- C. Initial Attack Information
- D. Extended Attack Information
- E. Press Releases
- F. Wildfire Information

VI. Public Information Officers (Lecture, 6 Hours)

- A. Incident Information Sharing
- B. Skills of Effective PIOs
- C. Dispatch Information and Communication
- D. Mobilization Process
- E. Triple “A” Thought Process
- F. Incident messaging

VII. Investigation (Lecture, 8 Hours)

- A. On-scene evidence preservation
- B. Fire Cause Determination
- C. Fire Cause Categories
- D. Fire Cause Indicators
- E. Burn Patterns
- F. Wildfire Investigation Color-Coded Pin Flags
- G. Fire Detection
- H. Fire Investigation Scene Safety
- I. Documentation

VIII. Legal Process (Lecture, 6 Hours)

- A. Litigation
- B. Arbitration
- C. Mediation
- D. Legal Action

	E. Discovery F. Examination G. Trial H. Judgements I. Wildfire Legal Proceedings
Total Lecture Hours:	54
Total Laboratory Hours:	0
Total Hours:	54
A.1. Primary Methods of Evaluation (Part 1 - CCN courses only):	
Primary Method of Evaluation:	1) Substantial writing assignments
Typical Assignment Using Primary Method of Evaluation:	Draft a Public Information Officer Briefing from events of the Palisades or Eaton Fire Incident. What specific clues are ones looking for to determine the point of origin of an incident.
Critical Thinking Assignment 1:	Prepare a written Wildland Fire Information Press release using the provided scenario.
Critical Thinking Assignment 2:	Describe the legal process of a Wildfire Investigation from on-scene preservation to trial in a courthouse.
Other Evaluation Methods:	Completion, Embedded Questions, Essay Exams, Homework Problems, Matching Items, Multiple Choice, Quizzes, Term or Other Papers, True/False, Written Homework
If Other:	
Instructional Methods:	Discussion, Group Activities, Guest Speakers, Lecture, Multimedia presentations, Role play/simulation
If other:	
Work Outside of Class:	Answer questions, Study, Required reading
If Other:	
Up-To-Date Representative Texts:	National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) Guide to Fire Weather Forecasts, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service (FS), NWCG PMS 425, 2021. A Guide for Application of Meteorological Information to Forest Fire Control Operations, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service (FS), Handbook 360: NWCG PMS 425-1, May 1970. (Textbook is most current USDA Handbook used for current Wildland Firefighters in the industry as the concepts of basic weather, topography and fuels has not changed over time). (Discipline Standard)
Alternative Texts:	
Required Supplementary Readings:	
Other Required Materials:	

Requisite	
Category	
Requisite course:	
Requisite and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	
Requisite Skill:	
Requisite Skill and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill(s), if applicable	
Requisite course:	ENGL C1000 or C1000H
Requisite and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	Reading and Composition ENGL C1000 - Demonstrate logical paragraph composition and sentence structure. The essay should have correct grammar, spelling, and word use.
Requisite Skill:	
Requisite Skill and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s), if applicable	
Enrollment Limitations and Category:	
Enrollment Limitations Impact:	
Course Created by:	Ryan Carey
Date:	2/1/2025
Original Board Approval Date:	11/18/2025
Effective Term:	FA 2026