

November 15, 2017

Dear Rx310 Student

I'm excited that you'll be part of the NWCG **Introduction to Fire Effects (RX 310)** course November 28 – December 2 in Orlando, Florida. This is a unique session of Rx310 in that you will be immersed for at least half of every day in the [7th International Fire Ecology and Management Congress](#). After attending the morning conference sessions, you will then convene each afternoon to the Rx310 classroom for specialized presentations. By pairing the class with the Congress we are able to take advantage of all the high quality conference speakers and their research from around the world, as well discussions about contemporary management challenges. I think you'll find it a very engaging and stimulating course.

This class – students and cadre – is comprised of a wonderful cross-section of fire practitioners and members of academia; firefighters and program managers; employees of federal and state agencies, universities and conservation groups; and citizens of the United States and Canada, and even Africa and Europe. I urge you to introduce yourself to your classmates and take home new perspectives from the fire world.

Be prepared to discuss fire from your personal perspective. What role do you play (or hope to play) in fire management? What are your concerns and questions about fire? Anticipate discussing the historic and current fire regime and attitudes toward fire in your country or region. To what extent is traditional ecological knowledge (including fire) embraced where you live? Please think about whether fire management collaborations or partnerships exist in your area. And consider how fire might be used in the future, given concerns about ecological succession, climate change, population growth and smoke impacts.

Format

You are expected to attend the entire conference, starting at 8 am Tuesday. The Rx310 class will convene each afternoon and all day Saturday. Bring a notebook and pencil or pen.

You will attend Congress sessions each morning. The Opening Plenary presentations (Tuesday morning), Fire AFEx talks (Wednesday morning) and Closing Plenary (Friday morning) presentations are mandatory. On Tuesday afternoon you will also attend the Poster Session, armed with a series of questions and discussion topics to be addressed in class the following day. On Thursday, you will be able to choose most of your schedule though we will assign a selection of talks. Each day after lunch all Rx310 students will meet as a group. The course wraps up Saturday with an Rx310-only field trip (lunch provided). The field trip will last all day (730-1530 ET).

Course schedule

Be aware that the schedule (for the Congress *and* Rx310) and rooms change based on the day!

Get the details at http://afefirecongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/AFE_2017_Schedule-1.pdf and when you check in to the conference.

Tentative Schedule Subject to Change	Tuesday 11/28/17	Wednesday 11/29/17	Thursday 11/30/17	Friday 12/1/17	Saturday 12/2/17
Morning Sessions	Opening Plenary-- Looking Back Concurrent and Special Sessions Workshops Trainings Fire Circles	Morning Plenary: Fire AFE Speakers	Concurrent and Special Sessions Workshops Trainings Meetings Fire Circles	Closing Plenary-- Looking Ahead Concurrent and Special Sessions Workshops Trainings Meetings Fire Circles	Field Trips 7 choices! All Day Off Site
Lunch	Lunch - On Your Own SAFE Lunch Meeting	Lunch - On Your Own	Awards Luncheon	Lunch - On Your Own	
Afternoon Sessions	Concurrent and Special Sessions Workshops Trainings Fire Circles	Rapid Fire Talks Concurrent and Special Sessions Workshops Trainings Fire Circles	Concurrent and Special Sessions Workshops Trainings Fire Circles	Concurrent and Special Sessions Workshops Trainings Meetings Fire Circles	
Evening Activities	Poster Session & Opening Reception	Free Night! Enjoy Orlando SAFE Social at Disney Wilderness Preserve	Stephen Pyne Movie Night	Free Night! Enjoy Orlando	

Pre-course Reading/Assignment

- Sign up for an IFTDSS account: go to https://iftdss.firenet.gov/landing_page/ and click on "register now." This is the new IFTDSS...anyone that used the "old" IFTDSS will still have to register for an account.
- Cadre members provided a list of recommended reading materials. Please familiarize yourself with these documents, including at a minimum the abstracts and results sections (you will not be tested on them; they are reference materials to help you with the course). All reading materials can be accessed at <http://afefirecongress.org/rx-310-course/>.

Dress appropriately for the weather Saturday. Our field trip location is Buck Lake Conservation Area, 2727 Blake Lee Trail, Mims, FL 32754.

If you have questions about Rx310 please contact me at bbuchanan@fs.fed.us or 404/606-2295.

If you have questions about the Congress please visit <http://afefirecongress.org/>.

Thanks!

Beth Buchanan,
Course Coordinator