

Mission Statement

Southwest Montana Wildland Fire Training Center is a distinctive project initiated in 1998 and jointly sponsored by The University of Montana and the Southwest Montana Geographic Zone of the Northern Rockies Coordinating Group. **Southwest Montana Wildland Fire Training Center** is motivated by one major goal:

To provide intensive, top-quality training to wildland firefighters

We accomplish this by:

- Providing certified, qualified trainers, in a quality learning environment
- Continually incorporating the newest data and techniques
- Taking the time to understand and respond to the course evaluations and other feedback we receive from the firefighters and course instructors

In addition, each of the instructors in this program offers a blend of creative talent and in-depth programmatic and field experience. The partnership is represented by the people who are involved in the ongoing day-to-day issues of wildland firefighting and, from The University of Montana's position, the planning and execution of top-of-the-line educational workshops.

Our Forest Service Program Director, **Chris "CJ" Johnson** serves as fire staff on the Lolo National Forest. CJ has served the Forest Service as an assistant fire management officer, a prevention technician, and now as the Southwest Zone Wildland Fire Training Center program manager. He works from his office on the University of Montana campus in the School of Extended and Lifelong Learning. It has been his privilege to serve two regions, four forests, and nine ranger districts in his twenty-three year career. CJ is responsible for ensuring that all course instructors are fully qualified and certified under **National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG)** standards and meet these criteria through training or experience or both.

All courses are completely sanctioned by the NWCG and the Northern Rockies Coordinating Training Group, and will be administered completely and professionally. Our program coordinator is **Deb Graham** of The University of Montana School of Extended and Lifelong Learning, Environmental Management Program.

The Wildfire Training program is interested in your comments -- we want your feedback! It is important to us that you get the training you want and need. You can do this through course evaluations at the end of a course, or by e-mailing your comments to **CJ** or **Deb Graham**.