

What's Lighting Us Up

Wildland Fire Training from The Ember Alliance

Ft. Collins, CO

By Tyler Gilbert, The Ember Alliance

In partnership with Front Range Community College and Aerie Backcountry Medicine, training staff from The Ember Alliance (TEA) have been putting on a unique blend of National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) wildland fire courses that include hands-on learning opportunities and wilderness first aid. The intent is to provide students with a well-rounded foundation to “spark” resilient wildland fire careers. This program includes S-212 (Wildland Fire Chainsaws), S-130 (Basic Wildland Firefighting), S-190 (Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior), Wilderness First Aid, and an innovative, hands-on Wildland Fire Practitioner Lab, where students get to put learning into practice.

Building on the foundation of NWCG curriculum, but applying innovative tactics, TEA employees have been developing this training over the last few years to provide students with a unique learning experience. Instruction by slideshow has been the standard for fire training for far too long. Using TEA’s hybrid classroom model, students participate in self-paced, online learning reinforced by hands-on lessons in the classroom and then apply the skills in the Wildland Fire Practitioner Lab field sessions. This unique approach to learning—using multiple learning styles to promote better understanding and allowing for a flexible education schedule—is a key step in diversifying and increasing the number of individuals training to be the future of fire management.

At the end of the first semester in the fall of 2021, a total of 16 students received S-130/S-190 credit, 9 received S-212 credit and 10 received Wilderness First Aid training.

LEARN MORE

Schedule of upcoming courses and registration details:
<https://emberalliance.org/professional-fire-training/frcc-wildland-fire-practitioner-lab/>

To learn more about The Ember Alliance, visit:
<https://emberalliance.org/>

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Students in the Wildland Fire Practitioner Lab get hands-on experience with hose lays. The lab also provides training with ignitions equipment, hand tools, fire apparatus and fire behavior calculations.



Students learn how to transport a patient on an improvised litter. The medical emergency response exercise also included practice in delegation, communication and documentation of an incident.

The Fire Networks—of which The Ember Alliance is a member—are part of *Promoting Ecosystem Resilience and Fire Adapted Communities Together*, a cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior. For more about PERFECT contact Marek Smith at marek_smith@tnc.org.

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