

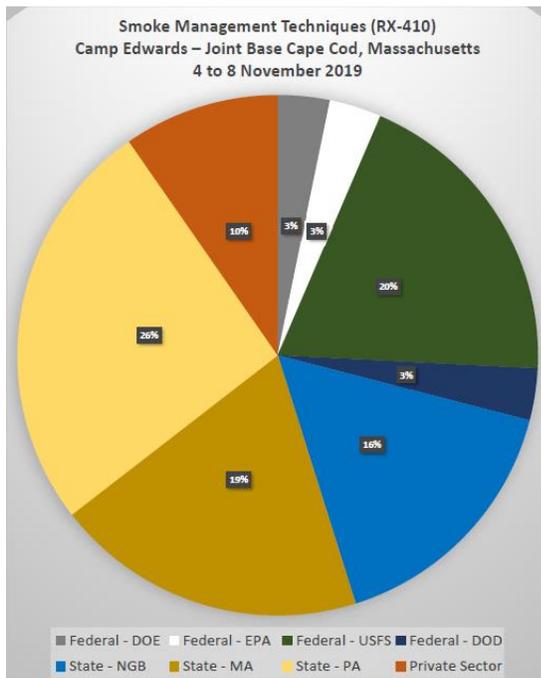
Smoke Management Techniques (RX-410)

Camp Edwards – Joint Base Cape Cod, Massachusetts

TRAINING SUMMARY

Increasing Prescribed Fire Capacity in the Densely Populated Northeast Corridor: an Example of Meeting the Cohesive Strategy’s Goal of Restoring and Maintaining Landscapes Through Partnerships and Training

In November 2019 the Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) offered a Smoke Management Techniques (RX-410) course at Camp Edwards on Cape Cod. The training was a great example of robust partnerships with MAARNG hosting, a private contractor coordinating the entire training and co-leading, and multiple state and federal agencies providing instructors. The exceptional cadre was composed of instructors from US Forest Service Regions 8 and 9, Pennsylvania Game Commission, US Environmental Protection Agency, and Northeast Forest and Fire Management, LLC. The support of instructors’ home agencies, MAARNG, and Camp Edwards allowed the training to be provided free of charge to participants, including housing, registration, and materials.



Thirty-one people took part in the RX-410 selected from a large pool of nominations submitted for this in-demand training. Participants were primarily from the northeast; however, there were several students from across the country. States represented were Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine, New York, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, South Carolina, North Carolina, Colorado, and Oregon. The list of agencies that had students participating in the RX-410 was as diverse as the states represented. Organizations that sent students consisted of the US Forest Service, Department of Energy, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Defense (Army and Army National Guard [MA, NH, OR, PA]), Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Pennsylvania Game Commission, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation Natural Resources and Recreation, The Nature Conservancy, and Northeast Forest and Fire Management, LLC.

RX-410 leads students through the ecological and historical role of fire, characteristics of smoke, and the impacts of smoke on health, safety and visibility. Other topics include public relations, legal requirements, meteorology, fuel consumption, smoke production dispersion modeling, and operational smoke management strategies. In addition to these standard topics, a unit was added on climate change. The overall objective of the RX-410 course is to provide land managers with the knowledge to

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manage smoke and reduce its impacts on public health and welfare. Given existing and potential air quality regulations, political and social sensitivities, students learn to:

- Predict, manage, and monitor prescribed fire smoke.
- Describe the legal, professional, and ethical reasons for managing smoke.
- Describe the roles of federal, state, and local agencies and organizations involved with and affected by smoke from prescribed fire.

Rx-410 is now a training requirement for Prescribed Fire Burn Boss Type 2 (RXB2). In addition to RXB2 the course was developed with a target group consisting of the positions of Prescribed Fire Burn Boss Type 1 (RXB1) and the Long Term Fire Analyst (LTAN). Other positions that benefit from RX-410 include Fire Effects Monitor (FEMO), air regulators, fire ecologists, private landowners, other state and private agencies, prescribed fire consultants, and fire planners. Offering this course for regional and partner agencies adds strength and depth to the Northeast wildland fire community and prepares students to take a leadership role bringing prescribed fire programs to the next level throughout the region.

During the past 18 years, with the assistance of many partner agencies and organizations, the MAARNG has sponsored and hosted wildland fire trainings at Camp Edwards. Training classes are offered free of charge to students with the intent of furthering wildland fire suppression and prescribed fire capacity within Massachusetts and among the MAARNG's many partner agencies.