

The Nebraska Forest Service's Wildland Fire Training Program hopes to train 500 firefighters for wildfire season.

Continuing intense drought, increased forest fuel loads and the spread of eastern red cedar, at a rate of about 38,000 new acres per year, have created an explosive potential for very large and more complex wildfires statewide. More than 1,500 wildland fires were reported last year.

Through May, classes will be offered to promote safety and review the most effective firefighting techniques. Fireline safety refresher training (Red Card training) focuses on core content subjects. Classes provide the training needed for firefighters to become nationally certified wildland firefighters.

Nebraska has 476 rural fire districts and a total of more than 14,000 firefighters.

NFS helps maximize the impact of the existing (predominantly volunteer) force of the state's firefighters.

Get information at: <http://nfs.unl.edu/Fire/wildlandfiretraining.asp>