

Expressions of Interest.

Wildfire Investigation Training Course.

Tentative date- September 2021



Dear Fire/Police Investigators,

We are all well aware of the increasing Wildfire risk in Europe, and in recent years, the serious consequences of unplanned Wildfires and the need for them to be prevented. More often, our agencies are being called on to accurately determine the cause of these fires. Importantly, communities expect those responsible are held accountable for these fires.

In the Netherlands, we have already taken steps to improve at a National level, the skills needed in successful Wildfire Investigation. Since 2011, The Netherlands Police and Fire Departments have hosted three National Wildfire Co-ordinating Group (NWCG) 'FI210 Wildland Fire Origin and Cause Determination Courses'.

Instructors from Australia and America have facilitated this training, being long term representatives on the (NWCG) Working Team on Wildfire Investigation, delivered this internationally recognized qualification involving theory and practical instruction. These three wildfire investigation experts (two from the USA and one from Australia) actually co-wrote this Course being former career Wildfire Investigators. The outcome here has seen attendees become proficient in the methodology in determining the origin and cause of Wildfires. Trainees were a mix of Police and Fire Service Investigators. The last Course also saw a small group of international attendees who also found the training highly valuable.

The course provides instruction on a range of topics around the investigation of Wildfires including:

- Wildfire Investigation Methodology;
- Recognized Causes of Wildfires;
- Fire Scene Evidence;
- Wildfire Arson;
- Interpretation of Fire Pattern Indicators to determine the origin of a Wildfire.

The theory sessions are supplemented with significant field-based (live fire) scene examination exercises, with all sessions and materials delivered in English. After the success of these past Courses, we are looking to host an additional Course to supplement our Team numbers in The Netherlands, and are keen to open it to other participants from across Europe.

As part of this proposal, we also want to give others outside the Police and Fire Agencies, such as Researchers, Parks Management Officers, Ecologists, and the like, an opportunity to also learn about this specialist skill.

NWCG facilitators will again deliver this Course with the assistance of trained Netherlands Fire Investigators.

The purpose of this message is to seek 'Expressions of Interest' from Fire/Police Investigators and other Specialists from across Europe who would be interested in attending and gaining this skill.

Understandably, the conduct of this Course will be subject to Covid-19 advice restrictions, so at this time we are just seeking the level of interest before committing to a planning process. Should we be in a position to go ahead, it is hoped to hold it around early September 2021.

The course will be held on a Military Base in The Netherlands over 5 days (Monday to Friday), arrival on Sunday and departure on Saturday will be possible. It is conducted as a 'live-in' arrangement with accommodation, all meals and course materials supplied, via a course fee on a per-student basis.

To this end, please send me an email with your information to contact you further to give you additional information about the progress in organizing the course FI210EU. If you have any questions regarding this topic please send an email to NBOWiSi@gmail.com by the 29th of March 2021.

Kind regards
Winand Sitsen
Course Co-Coordinator.
31 December 2020