

## S-236 Heavy Equipment Boss Pre-Course Work

### Course Description

Welcome to the S-236 Heavy Equipment Boss pre-course work.

### Objectives

The student will learn the new guidance and implementation policies set forth in the Federal Fire Policy, namely, fighting fire with multiple objectives.

### Course Components and Hours to Complete

Course components	Hours to complete
Pre-selection assessment	N/A
Pre-course work	2
Online course module(s)	N/A
Instructor-led units (completed in a classroom)	22
<b>TOTAL Hours</b>	<b>24</b>

### Assignment

Review the Federal Fire Policy Module and complete the knowledge checks. Be prepared to answer and go over topics contained within the FFP module.

There is also a link to the *Yellowbook for Mechanized Fire and Fuel Operations* which should be reviewed prior to coming to class.

[Click to start training.](#)

### History

**Who is the Heavy Equipment Boss (HEQB) and just what does he do?** The HEQB is an ICS position who is usually supervised directly by a DIVS or STLD in the nationally recognized operations chain of command. They are the manager of an agency contract for one or more dozers, with operator, transport, and assigned personnel. They may manage agency assigned equipment/personnel independently or in addition to private contractors.

Assignments may be for initial attack fire suppression (usually a “District” resource order) or for extended attack (ordered by Incident Command Team). BAER teams also regularly need equipment and HEQB. Other resource orders may be made for ice storm, wind storm, insect disease projects, and other risk incidents where the scale of operations exceeds local capacities to handle.

The use of heavy equipment has three overwhelming **advantages** to hand labor:

1. Equipment generally can do the same job **faster**.
2. Equipment generally can do the same job **cheaper**.
3. Equipment **eliminates safety risks** to people by reducing the number of people on site.

The old adage “a machine can do the work of a hundred men” is truer than ever. But it is critical to have **the right machine, in the right place, with the right operator**. You as a heavy equipment boss can size up this combination and ensure the **right job** gets done. Capable operation and supervision is essential to avoiding and mitigating specific hazards associated with the use of machinery.

This **S-236** course is designed within a timeframe to give you the best training available to assume a new responsibility important and respected in ICS. Your performance will determine whether this position earns more or less in the future. Accomplishing incident objectives, your own performance evaluation, and the image of your peer group depends on **individual commitment** to strive for excellence. Do not be overwhelmed with this challenge, but grow with it. **Ask** questions and gain from the knowledge of others.

The pre-course work online course module explains the new guidance and implementation of the Federal Fire Policy. This module stresses the importance of you, as a HEQB, understanding the concept of fighting fire for multiple objectives. The days of “complete suppression” are over and it’s your job to ask the right questions and make the correct determinations when it comes to the way heavy equipment helps to support incident(s).

There are several knowledge checks within the module so please be patient and absorb the material as you are perusing it and be open to the ideas and concepts presented.

Another helpful resource and an item that **should be added to the HEQB kit** is the *Yellowbook- Mechanized Equipment for Fire and Fuels Operations*.

**It is recommended that the HEQB download** this and look at the information prior to coming to class. A collaborative project of agency, nonprofit and private sectors to create a handy reference, training guidebook and dispatching aid. Includes mechanized operation strategies, tactics, machine profiles, directory of qualified agency-contracted equipment operators from ID, MT, OR, WA. 400+ machines available from 87 contractors, pictured and described. Twelve common forestry equipment categories are discussed with profiles and numerous photos: dozers, pumpercats, wheeled and tracked skidders, feller bunchers, harvesters, forwarders, skidgines, forwarders, excavators, shovels, and mulchers. Includes seasoned perspectives and useful tips from the field. A must read for those interested in safe, efficient use of mechanized task forces.

Link: [http://www.wildfirelessons.net/documents/YellowBook\\_LowRes\\_Cover.pdf](http://www.wildfirelessons.net/documents/YellowBook_LowRes_Cover.pdf)

