



**National Advanced Fire & Resource Institute**  
Managed By The U.S. Forest Service

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**File Code:** 5100

**Date:** April 28, 2010

**Subject:** L-480 Instructor Certification

**To:** Dr. Curt Braun  
Benchmark Research and Safety, Inc.  
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As defined by the NWCG Leadership Committee, the L-480, Organizational Leadership in the Wildland Fire Service course is designed to develop individual core competencies surrounding the strategic aspects of leadership. Strategic leadership requires a specific set of cognitive and behavioral skills that assist the leader in projecting an effective leadership presence in any team or organizational setting.

Dr. Curt Braun of Benchmark Research and Safety, Inc. has successfully demonstrated the ability to provide instruction/education using the established L-480 course criteria. Dr. Braun has demonstrated expert knowledge communicating these concepts, personally demonstrated these concepts, and evaluated students to ensure they understand these concepts. Dr. Braun has the background, education, experience, credentials, and ability to present the L-480 course, and meets the level of instruction to be certified as an instructor of L-480.

**Evaluation:**

The L-480 evaluation team is satisfied that the instructor, Dr. Braun demonstrated an expert level of skill and understanding of the material in his presentation of L-480. He made an immediate positive connection with the students and was able to relate and stay connected with the students throughout the course presentation. His enthusiasm, use of audio/visual aids, ability to engage the students in discussion & exercises, the use and the integration of coaches, were all received very well and made for a positive learning environment.

**Summary Finding:**

Any personnel attending L-480 Organizational Leadership in the Wildland Fire Service courses presented by lead instructor, Dr. Curt Braun, of Benchmark Research and Safety, Inc. should receive credit for the L-480 training.

Please contact Deborah Corner, Course Coordinator, NAFRI with any questions or concerns. She can be reached at (520) 799-8752, or email: [dcorner01@fs.fed.us](mailto:dcorner01@fs.fed.us).

  
MERRIE M. JOHNSON  
Director

cc: Ted Mason, BLM, Task Group Chair L-480, Organizational Leadership in the Wildland Fire Service