

COURSE EVALUATION COMMENTS

DOZER BOSS S-232 TRAINING 4/14-18, 2008

Overall, this was one of the best classes I have taken. The instructors were very knowledgeable, and lots of hands-on training. I highly recommend this class to anyone interested. (R.Peltier)

This class was great. I was really glad to see the equipment in action, which will better prepare me for what I will see on the fireline. More line officers and resource advisors should go to this workshop. This class is very progressive; looking to the future of equipment on the fireline, and showed how we can do better work with less impact. What I learned will make me more efficient. The instructors were top-notch! These folks knew this business inside and out. (M.Weakland)

Student workbook should be re-written to be Mechanized Equipment, not just Dozer (Boss). (M.Mansson)

Field demonstrations - although some of us were not prepared for the weather, the nightline construction was great and something you would not normally expect. Instructor experience very impressive. Their ability to share experience was important. Hold more of these around the country. (DStindt)

Recommendations: I would hope that the instructors would consider the trees left that were limbed by the feller buncher and the track harvester are an eyesore. The only piece of equipment that could limb successfully was the excavator from Blackfoot Restoration. If I were to leave trees mangled like the ones left on the practice sight, I would have my ass chewed by my supervisor. Some of the show of power was too excessive. I do not need to see a soft track skidgine push over a 25 inch ponderosa to prove he can do it. [Rep. Keane asked Get'er Done to do this]

Now don't get me wrong, I think the class is a great step in the right direction. I come from a 4-generation production agriculture family. We implant our cattle with steroids, we spray chemicals on our crops and we use large machinery to turn mass amounts of dirt. With that said, I, of all people still thought the display of the machinery use was too excessive. We do not need to see a 150 ft. clear cut to know what an "Alamo" line looks like. I think all of us could picture that line with just imagining the existing line being five times wider. I think you guys are making a good point; just tone it down a little. (M.Knott)

Thank you to the operators! Shorten the long field day a smidge, add a break or two. Perhaps, touch a little more on rehab (that's what all the naysayers of using heavy equip will worry about...Perhaps, if we convert a few of them, we can get further with this and change the view of using equip on fires and fuels. I thought this was a great course and should be made THE STANDARD. Field days and checking out equip as part of this class SHOULD BE MANDATORY! For those of us who have never worked with mechanized equip before, it is IMPERATIVE to check out the equip, see what it can do, and watch the combos of different equip work together. I cannot imagine being sent on a trainee assignment without ever having seen the equip work before, nor know its capabilities.

A little later in the year to have better weather. (D.Madden)

Class was informative. (M.Gingery)

Specific safety plan for field exercises. Reduce the number of vans for travel; use crew buses or vans. Porta-toilets and ICP - not at the bottom of the hill. Allow trainees to inspect all incoming and out-going equipment when possible. (P.Reitz)

More strategic integrations!!!! It is apparent that equipment integration on a wildland fire is adhoc, at best. A fully integrated strategy is needed soon in order to accomplish tasks in a climatological and political changing atmosphere. Overhead must recognize the potential for more mechanized use, especially as safety of human resources will become much more problematical with bigger fires and more WUI. (G.Neils)

Only recommendation would be to have a Resource Advisor (with fire experience) to talk to class. Tough comments from participants were well received and utilized. This was an expanded version of S-232, with many types of equipment represented, significant field time, and opportunities to talk with operators. This course exceeded what is typically offered in an S-232 course by a long-shot. The course coordinator (Obie O'Brien) and cadre were exceptional: they should be consulted on how to structure these courses. This course did more to prepare me for a trainee position than any single S-course I have taken in the past. (R.Owen)

I think you should seriously pursue placing a permanent training facility or Forest Service ground. We use the machinery extensively on and off fire; it's pretty embarrassing that we can't even use our own ground as a training / demo area. (T.Lahey)

Try to reach a wider audience: Resource Advisors, line officers, contracting folks. This was excellent and deserves to be fully funded. I'm very grateful for being included. I'm very impressed with the entire course. (A. Mitchell)

Thanks for one of the best - ever courses in anything. (A.Kelso, Cibola NF, R3)

Course needs a Resource Advisor component: What to expect; Responsibilities of Resorce Advisor; History and trends; Suggestions for integration and interaction. (E.Snook)

The folks that initiated and ran the workshop should be proud of themselves for an outstanding presentation. (J.Novosel)

Was remarkable to see the new diversity of equipment.

Most liked about the course: The ability and generosity of the operators to show us about their machines.

Materials were excellent! The level of knowledge and experience of the instructors was very high.