



National Advanced Fire & Resource Institute
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March 16, 2026

Subject: L580 – Leadership is Action – Superstorm Sandy Staff Ride

Congratulations!

You have been selected to attend the NWCG L-580 Leadership Is Action, Superstorm Sandy Staff Ride for senior level leaders in wildland fire and all hazard incident management. This will be a tremendous opportunity for each of us as we embark on the first true all risk staff ride, relying upon the incredible joint venture between the US Forest Service and the New York City Fire Department.

Theme

Forbearance and Resilience in the Face of Uncertainty

Intent of L-580 Hurricane Sandy Staff Ride

The intent of this Staff Ride is to immerse leaders in a unique experience for conveying leadership and to further the professional development of senior-level leaders during Low Frequency – Extreme Risk events. While participating in this New York City Staff Ride, students will be exposed to the decisions, actions, and communications from both the FDNY and Federal response agencies during Super Storm Sandy in October of 2012.

Participants in this Staff Ride will be divided into four Groups (built around an IMT) led by a combination of Senior Leaders from the USFS and the FDNY who will provide historical insights regarding preparedness, response, and culture of the FDNY and the National Park Service. Unlike other Staff Rides, this will be a full three days on the ground, with Sunday and Friday being travel days, followed by three days of intense NYC travel, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday on sea and land.

Schedule

On Monday June 8th, from 4-7pm, the cadre will host a mandatory, informal Icebreaker at 4 World Trade Center. On Tuesday, June 9th, at 8am the Field portion of the Staff Ride kicks off, continuing all day Wednesday June 10th and a 1/2 day on Thursday June 11th, throughout New York City. From 1pm to 3pm on Thursday June 11th, we will gather for the Integration portion of the Staff Ride, once again at 4 World Trade Center. After 3pm, the Staff Ride concludes and will allow for personal enrichment and fellowship for further exploration of New York City. Travel home will be on Friday the 12th.

[World Trade Center About Page](#)

Lodging & Travel

L-580 Hurricane Sandy Staff Ride participants are encouraged to travel on Sunday, June 7th, 2026. A block of rooms has been reserved at the federal per diem rate for Sunday through Friday at:

DoubleTree by Hilton New York Downtown

8 Stone St, New York, NY 10004

(212) 480-9100

<https://group.doubletree.com/m3hi55>

[Hotel Link valid through May 6th, 2026.](#)

Ferries

L-580 Hurricane Sandy Staff Ride participants are required to purchase Ferry tickets during the delivery. There are two separate locations where tickets will need to be purchased from.

Governors Island Tickets

Tickets can be purchased at <https://www.govisland.com/plan-your-visit/ferry>. One round trip ticket will need to be purchased, and we will let you know what time to select as we get closer to delivery.

NYC Ferry Tickets

You will need to purchase 4 one-way tickets, on the Rockaway-Soundview route, which can be purchased through the NYC Ferry App. The NYC Ferry App can be downloaded for both Android, and Apple products, through the NYC Ferry web-page here: <https://www.ferry.nyc/>.



Air Transportation

It is suggested to travel into Manhattan by either plane or rail. Vehicle parking is extremely expensive and often access is restricted to your vehicle during your stay. You will have three airport choices within forty-five minutes of the hotel. All airports are managed by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

[AIRPORT INFO](#)

Rail Transportation

Rail service is provided directly into Manhattan into either NY Penn Station or the adjacent Moynihan Station.

[AMTRAK](#)

Taxi Cabs

Traveling by Taxi in NYC is an experience and can be quite expensive. The use of yellow cabs is suggested as they are highly regulated. Ubers are everywhere as well as “gypsy cabs” which could charge three times the fare as yellow cabs. All cabs take credit cards. Taxi’s can be had by standing near a curb and “hailing one” by reaching out your right arm at a 45-degree angle from your body. Be patient, you’ll get one eventually.

[All About Taxi Cabs](#)

NYC VISITORS GUIDE

Field Activities

This Staff Ride is conducted in the field. We will be traveling on foot, ferry boats and tour buses during the week. The entire day will be spent in the field, including lunch breaks. The weather can vary greatly in June. It may be cool enough for a jacket or warm enough for shorts. Expect rain, expect sunshine. Hats, sunblock and bug repellent are recommended. Check the weather forecast before packing!

Meals

The Staff Ride is not supported while in the field. Please plan for sufficient water and lunch for Tuesday and Wednesday. You will return to the hotel each night. Dinner on Tuesday and Wednesday night is at your leisure. There are 23,650 restaurants in NYC, you will not go hungry.

Icebreaker

Monday June 9th at 4pm, is the mandatory Icebreaker hosted by the cadre. You will be introduced to your Conference Group Leads and Operators for the Staff Ride. This is an informal event held at 4 World Trade Center.

Integration Luncheon

Is scheduled for Thursday June 11th, at 1pm, at 4 World Trade Center.

Morning Physical Training

The Cadre plan to enjoy a morning PT around lower Manhattan or over the Brooklyn Bridge and back again. It is a great way to enhance your experience. For those interested, bring your gear! “Fast”, “Faster” and “Fastest” groups launch from the hotel lobby at 0530.

Timeline

Items in **BLUE** are optional or team time, **RED** is mandatory for all Staff Ride Participants, and **GREEN** is Cadre only items.

Sunday June 7 th	Monday June 8 th	Tuesday June 9 th	Wednesday June 10 th	Thursday June 11 th	Friday June 12 th
Travel	Team Time for Conference Groups	Optional PT - 0530 Staff Ride – 0800 - 1700	Optional PT - 0530 Staff Ride – 0800 - 1700	Optional PT - 0530 Staff Ride – 0800 - 1200 Integration – 1300 - 1500	Travel
	Cadre Meeting 1500 - 1600			Cadre Meeting 1500 - ??	
	Icebreaker – 1600 - 1900				



Important Logistics

- Please bring Agency and State ID (DL) for access into controlled sites. (World Trade Center)
- Participants must be able to walk a moderate distance (5 miles) daily in urban terrain without assistance
- Participants must be aware that a significant amount of time will be afloat aboard public watercraft (ferry boats)
- Participants need to have sufficient cash for purchasing meals. New York city culture does not provide for individual checks for groups in restaurants. "If you're in on the meal, you're in on the meal (financially)" - total check will be divided equally among diners (4 diners with a \$200 check will be \$50 per diner). It's the FDNY way!
- All participants MUST stay at the designated hotels
- Cab fares from an airport to a hotel may be as high as \$250 in New York
- Significant travel time will be required to get from airports or train stations to the designated hotel
- Weather can change quickly; this is an outdoor event so be prepared for rain, snow, wind, etc. Also be prepared for terrorist action, crimes, traffic, all the dangers of large city travel
- Firearms must not be carried. Knives must not be open-carried and must have blade length under 4 inches. Participants carrying metal objects may be denied entry into certain buildings (Trinity Church, OEM, etc) passing through metal detectors
- Participation is limited to 4 evaluation teams of 12 participants each, plus cadre for a total 65
- Icebreaker and integration luncheon at 4 World Trade Center
- Participants must be at the designated hotel by 1500 on Monday
- Bring more than one pair of comfortable walking shoes
- Purchase Ferry tickets before day of use. Purchasing at the ticket kiosk or trying to purchase them on the fly could result in missing the Ferry or causing delays

Study Phase Material in the Wildland Fire Learning Portal

Participants need to complete their preliminary readiness for the staff ride prior to arriving at New York City. You can find your pre-course work in the Wildlife Fire Learning Portal. We will get the team members added into the WFLP Page in the coming weeks.

[Superstorm Sandy Learning Portal Page](#)

If you do not have a WFLP account, please create one at your earliest availability. It can take some time for the account to become active so you can be added into the Portal.

[Learning Portal Account Creation Page](#)

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