



About Wildland Firefighting

Wildland firefighters work in a variety of environments and conditions for extended periods of time that require high physical fitness levels. Positions include working on crews, engines, helitack, smoke jumping, dispatch, tanker base support, and administrative support.

Aviation

Forest Service and BLM firefighters who work in aviation, have a unique means of getting to the fire – by helicopters.

Helitack

Helitack Crews consist of seven to 10 personnel whose primary mission is rapid response to new wildland fires. This response happens via helicopter with a small initial attack squad of two to three firefighters. Other missions are to support large fires by delivering water, crews, and supplies to remote areas of the fire. The helitack crew can also provide individual firefighters to other operational positions as needed.

Air Tanker Bases

Tanker base staff, depending on fire activity, consist of four to eight personnel. Parking tenders park large aircraft and single engine air tankers. Time keepers maintain detailed flight tracking documents. All positions coordinate with pilots, dispatch, and other tanker bases.

Operations

Operations consist of personnel with qualifications and experience with direct fire suppression using hand tools, power equipment and firefighting apparatus.

Engine Crew

An engine crew is composed of three to six personnel who staff a wildfire apparatus of various capabilities and are responsible for clearing brush, spraying water, and cutting trees down that threaten containment of fires. Personnel may need to coordinate with aircraft, crews and other apparatus on the fireline to suppress the fire.

Wildland Fire Modules

Wildland Fire Modules are a seven- to 10-person team that specializes in planning, monitoring, and the operational engagement of planned and unplanned wildland fires. They can also provide initial and extended attack, as well as assist with prescribed fire ignitions and fuel reduction projects.

Support

Critical positions such as dispatch and administrative specialists provide support to complete the unit and fire objectives.

Dispatch

Dispatchers use the latest technology to rapidly mobilize resources locally and throughout the country. They are the first to receive smoke reports, track fire activity, and communicate with suppression personnel and aircraft in the field.

Administration

This support function ensures the firefighters, contractors, and caterers are paid and receive the appropriate documentation.

More Information

Fitness is an important element of being a successful firefighter. The physical demands of the job require a high level of fitness for safety and productivity. Being physically fit is expected of all crew members.

https://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch_centers/r2gjc/employment/UCR%20Physical%20Fitness%20Info.pdf

Upper Colorado River Interagency Fire Management – Seasonal Employment

https://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch_centers/r2gjc/employment/seasonal_employment.html

Duty stations in Grand Junction, Rifle, Eagle, Minturn and Silverthorne, Colorado

USA Jobs

<https://www.usajobs.gov/>

Upper Colorado River Interagency Fire and Aviation Management

Bureau of Land Management - Colorado Northwest and Southwest District

U.S. Forest Service – White River National Forest