

United States  
Department  
of Agriculture

Forest Service



## WILDLAND FIREFIGHTING HIRING REQUIREMENTS

In order to be hired for hazardous duty positions (firefighting) individuals must:

- Be at least 18 years old;
- Be a United States citizen
- Must pass a doctor-administered preliminary firefighter physical examination that includes tests on dexterity, mobility, and hearing;
- Have no history of heart, lung, intestinal or nervous disorder.
- Pass a physical fitness test (work capacity test) at the arduous or highest fitness level (this test consists of a completing a three-mile walk in 45 or less minutes wearing a 45-pound pack).

(A high school diploma is not required.)

### Basic Wildland Firefighter Training – (FFT2)

- Basic firefighter training constitutes 32 hours of classroom and field training.
- Training starts in the classroom and culminates in field training and exercises.
- Students must have an 80 percent or better score on all written tests to pass.
- Students must be able to deploy a fire shelter within 20 seconds.
- Training includes:
  - Introduction to the Incident Command System (I-100), which includes incident command organization (organization that manages emergency situations), and positions and common responsibilities.
  - Wildland Fire Suppression Orientation (S-110) that introduces new firefighters to basic firefighting operations.
  - Instruction in the primary environmental factors (S-190) – including weather, fuels, and fire behavior – that affect the start and influence the spread of wildfire.
  - Entry-level firefighting skills (S-130), which includes instruction in safety, tools, equipment, firing devices, use of maps, scouting, hazardous materials, securing a control line and fire suppression methods. Field exercises in this course are designed to prepare the individual for actual firefighting situations such as handline construction, proper use of hoses and pumps, and use of hand tools in fire suppression and fireline rehabilitation.
  - Standards for Survival which includes extensive training in fire shelter deployment, identification of escape routes and safety zones, the proper use of personal protective equipment, and study situations that have the potential to endanger firefighter safety, including the 10 Standard Fire Orders, 18 Watch Out Situations and the Lookouts, Communications, Escape Routes and Safety Zones (LCES).

### Advanced Training – Advanced Firefighter/Squad Boss (FFT1)

A Squad Boss would supervise a group of four or five firefighters. Training required includes all courses for FFT2 and:

- Advanced Firefighter Training (S-131)
- Supervisory Concepts and Techniques (S-281)
- Portable Pumps and Waters Use (S-211)
- Wildfire Power Saws (S-212)

In addition, satisfactory performance as a Firefighter Type 2 (FFT2) is required, and experience/satisfactory performance as an advanced Firefighter/Squad Boss on a wildland fire incident (under the supervision of a qualified FFT1). Performance is documented through the use of a task book which outlines the specific tasks to fulfill to attain the required experienced. A signature from a qualified CRWB or other experienced fire manager validates satisfactory completion of each task.

### Advanced Training – Crew Boss (CRWB)

A Crew Boss would supervise a crew of 18 to 20 people. Training required includes all courses and experience for FFT1 and:

- Crew Boss (S-230)
- Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior (S-290)
- Basic ICS (I-200)
- Ignition Operations (S-234)
- Interagency Business Management (S-260)
- Basic Air Operations (S-270)

In addition, satisfactory performance as a Firefighter Type 1/Squad Boss is required, and satisfactory performance as a single resource Crew Boss on a wildland fire or prescribed fire incident (under the supervision of a qualified CRWB). Performance is documented through the use of a task book which outlines the specific tasks to fulfill to attain the required experienced. A signature from a qualified CRWB or other experienced fire manager validates satisfactory completion of each task.

Figure 1. Typical Structure of a Type II Wildland Firefighting Crew

