



Obtaining a Job in Wildland Fire

The Basics

You must be a United States citizen and at least 18 years of age in order to work as a firefighter for the National Park Service. You can find other information on employment with the National Park Service - Fire and Aviation at <http://www.nps.gov/fire>

- Click on the **Employment** link at the top of the page
- From there you can search for jobs under **Job Search** which has customized searches for National Park Service fire-related jobs listed in USAJobs.
- You will also find information on how to apply, the application forms, a brief description of the fire positions and a link to frequently asked questions.

Other Useful Resources

- *Fire Integrated Recruitment Employment Systems (FIRES)*: Under this hiring process you can select up to seven different locations within the Department of the Interior using one application. To apply using FIRES go to: <http://www.firejobs.doi.gov/index.php?action=home>.
- *USAJOBS*: <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov/> - This website allows you to search for fire jobs as well as other federal jobs across multiple agencies and geographic areas. Each job announcement will have specific information on how and where to apply as well as who to contact if you have questions.
- *National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC)*: <http://www.nifc.gov> - You can find the latest information on fire and safety. You can also access all the federal agencies/bureaus fire websites by clicking on the links at the bottom of the page.

Physical Fitness Requirements for Firefighters

There are certain physical requirements that every wildland firefighter is required to meet at the start of each season. The "Work Capacity Test" is required by every agency/bureau before an Incident Qualification Card (Red Card) can be issued. You can find information on the Work Capacity Test at: http://www.nps.gov/fire/developmental/dev_workcapacity.cfm. Depending on the type of crew, there may be additional physical requirements. It is recommended that you find out if there are any additional standards and what they are so you can prepare in the off season. Contact the specific location where you would like to work for additional requirements.

If you are entering into the wildland fire arena without any previous experience there are some basic classes that you may be able to complete locally which will increase your chances of being hired. The basic fire courses are S-130 Firefighter Training and S-190 Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior. Contact your [State Forestry agency](#) or Community College to see if they offer any of these classes.

Other Useful Links:

Contact Information for All National Parks

http://data2.itc.nps.gov/contacts/contacts_atoz.cfm

NPS Hotshot Crew (Alpine Hotshots) – Rocky Mountain National Park

<http://www.nps.gov/romo/resources/fire/hotshot.html>

NPS Hotshot Crew (Arrowhead Hotshots) – Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

<http://www.arrowheadhotshots.org/>

Bureau of Land Management (Smokejumper Program)

<http://www.fire.blm.gov/smokejumper/>

USDA Forest Service (Smokejumper Program)

<http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/people/smokejumpers/index.html>