



Fire Management Program

A career in wildland firefighting provides pride in your job and allows you to make a contribution to caring for the land and learn how fire plays a role in the ecosystem. Apply what you've learned in the classroom. Gain real world experience as a Wildland Firefighter this summer.



Experience on a fire crew can be a memorable summer job and it can lead to a career in wildland fire management. Wildland fire experience prepares individuals interested in pursuing a career in fire management, wildlife management, field biology, ecology, forestry, or range management.

Most duties are related to prescribed burning, wildfire suppression, and fire preparedness and could include conducting regular maintenance and repairs on various equipment such as fire engines, tractors, mowers, chain saws, and hand tools and serving as a crew member during fire break preparation which involves mowing, trimming, tree and brush removal. You may have the opportunity to assist other refuges and agencies throughout the nation with prescribed burning and wildfire suppression.

SEEKING CANDIDATES WITH A PASSION FOR

- *Natural resource management*
- *Developing a respect for fire*
- *Working in variable outdoor environments*
- *Excelling as part of a team*
- *Getting paid to work out*
- *Traveling the country*

Qualification Requirements

Entry-level Wildland Firefighters are typically advertised as temporary seasonal positions and classified as Forestry Technicians (GS-0462-02/03). To qualify as a GS-2 Firefighter, you must possess a valid driver's license and high school diploma or equivalent. To qualify as a GS-3 Firefighter, you must possess a valid driver's license plus one of the following:

- 6 months general work experience, or
- 1 year education beyond high school, which included at least 6 semester hours in relevant coursework [found here](#), or
- A combination of education and experience described above.

Mid-level Wildland Firefighters can be hired for temporary seasonal, permanent seasonal, or permanent full-time appointments and are classified as Forestry Technicians (GS-0462-04/05/06/07/08/09). Positions may require a Commercial Driver's License (CDL), as well as one of following requirements for a GS-4 position (there are additional requirements for higher-graded positions):

- 6 months of general work experience, which can be any work experience AND 6 months of specialized work experience equivalent to the GS-03 level duties. Examples of specialized work include on-the-line wildland fire experience in forest/range fire control, prevention or suppression work as a trainee wildland firefighter, or
- 2 years education beyond high school which included at least 12 semester hours in relevant coursework [found here](#), or
- A combination of the education and experience described above.

Advanced-level Wildland Firefighters are generally hired into permanent full-time appointments as Fire Management Specialists or Fire Management Officers (GS-0401-11/12/13/14/15). Positions starting at a GS-11 generally require all of the following:

- Specialized experience equivalent to the next lower grade level
- Education or experience satisfying the [0401 Biologist series](#)
- Interagency Fire Program Management (IFPM) [Qualifications Standards](#)



Education and Training Opportunities

As an Entry-level Wildland Firefighter, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service trains employees on Basic Fire School (Rookie School). The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service invests in its returning staff by offering specialized training and classes. Mid-level Wildland Firefighters can take advantage of:

- Specialized courses in Emergency Incident Management, Prescribed Fire Planning, Fire Operations, Leadership, and more.
- On-the-job training for advanced position certification
- Advanced coursework which may count towards college credit

More Information

Temporary seasonal summer job announcements generally advertise from November to January. Positions will post at [this USAJobs link](#). You can learn how to save this search and be notified when positions post by following [these instructions](#).

Other helpful links:

- [U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Fire Management](#)
- [U.S. Department of the Interior Wildland Fire Jobs](#)
- [Wildland Firefighter Job Description](#)