

2009 Seasonal Fire Jobs

Job Recruitment

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management will be looking to fill numerous wildland firefighter positions for the upcoming 2009 fire season across the majority of the Western United States. In California, The Bishop Field Office of the BLM is searching for highly motivated, ambitious, creative, and physically fit individuals to play a big part in our fire management program for the rapidly approaching fire season.

The BLM

The California BLM administers about 15 million acres of public lands, nearly 15% of the state's land area. The Bureau also administers 47 million acres of subsurface mineral estate underlying federal surface land, 2.5 million acres underlying privately owned land, 592,000 acres of Native American tribal land where BLM has trust responsibility for mineral operations.

Within the State of California, the Bishop Field Office oversees 750,000 acres of public lands that stretch between Owens Valley in the south and Topaz Lake in the north along the scenic Eastern Sierras. The Bishop BLM works closely with other land management agencies including the Inyo and Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forests as well as the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

The Bureau of Land Management might best be described as a small agency with a big mission: *To sustain the health, productivity, and diversity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.*

The Program

Our fire management program is characterized by a small, close workforce with significant wildfire, emergency response, fuels management, and natural resource management responsibilities. Our program consists of two type 3 heavy fire engines based at Mono Basin Fire Station north of the town of Lee Vining and one type 6 light engine based at Topaz Interagency Fire Station near the Nevada border. All three engine modules are housed at two brand new, multi-million dollar fire facilities opened in September of 2005. Although, we are a small entity by ourselves, we are much bigger organization with our interagency coordination with the Inyo National Forest. This relationship allows for assisted fire responses, crew involvement, fire classes, and training assignments just to name a few. Some of the key components of our program encompass:

- Teamwork & Cooperation
- Professional land management
- Development, education, and growth of future fire managers
- Safe, Efficient Emergency Response
- Program Ownership

The majority of our local fires are started by lightning. Initial attack can be very heavy at times depending on the fire season. We also respond to vehicle fires, traffic accidents, and other emergency situations. In addition, our crews will typically travel throughout California and the Western U.S. to assist in wildfire efforts throughout the summer months. These assignments can last up to 14 days in some cases.

Our seasonal employees typically begin work around mid-May and continue work throughout the summer, with layoffs typically occurring in early October depending on the fire season and budget availability. Government barracks are available at both Topaz and Mono Basin Stations. Individual rooms with furniture are available at each location for a nominal monthly government rental rate.

Informational Websites

BLM Bishop Field Office
www.blm.gov/ca/bishop

BLM Office of Fire and Aviation
www.blm.gov/nifc/st/en/prog/fire.1.html

National Interagency Fire Center - NIFC
www.nifc.gov

U.S. Dept of the Interior Fire Jobs
www.firejobs.doi.gov





The Area

The Eastern Sierras of California are characterized by the combination of the Sierra Nevada Mountains and the Great Basin Desert. Elevations range from 13,000 feet on the higher peaks to 5,000 feet in many of the valley bottoms. Countless creeks, coniferous forests, alpine mountains and high elevation deserts characterize the area. Numerous recreation opportunities are available including mountain biking, kayaking, hiking, rock climbing, and fishing just to name a few. Both fire stations are located in rural areas. The nearest largest town to Mono Basin Station is Mammoth Lakes, located 40 minutes to the south. Gardnerville is the nearest large community to Topaz Station, located 20 minutes to the north. In addition, winter activities include skiing and snowboarding at Mammoth and June Mountains as well as cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, and snowshoeing.

Pay

Pay level is determined through an Individual's job experience level and education (\$11.50/hr. starting). Overtime and Hazard pay will typically increase pay during the summer months depending on the fire season.

Additional Opportunities

Our employees are our number 1 asset. If you have an interest in wildland fire management and the management of the nation's public lands, we have development opportunities for hard working, motivated individuals entering our program. Feel free to contact us for more information.

Physical Requirements

Wildland firefighting is a very arduous job. Therefore, firefighters are expected to be in good physical condition at the start of the season. Everyone assigned to fire suppression duties is required to pass a "Field Pack Test" with an arduous rating. The Field Pack Test is a 3-mile walk carrying a 45-lb. pack. The 3-mile pass/fail walk must be completed in 45 minutes or less. Our employees are typically able to far exceed these requirements in their physical fitness standards. Once firefighters are assigned to their duty station, they will be expected to participate in daily physical training. Daily "PT's" usually consist of running, crew hikes in full gear, weightlifting, and additional cardiovascular training.

Basic Requirements

To be selected, applicants must be at least 18 years old, and U.S. Citizens. If selected, applicants must pass a physical and drug test. Selected firefighters will be required to provide 8"- high laced boots, with a vibram non-skid sole.

Application Process

The 2009 vacancy announcement for our seasonal fire positions opens on December 1, 2008 and closes on December 30, 2008 (for early consideration). We typically hire all of our employees off the early consideration list! There is one announcement: **DOI-FIRE-2009-006** for GS-2, 3, 4, and 5 positions. GS level is determined by previous wildland experience, education, former employment, etc. The announcement is posted on **USA Jobs** (The web listing for all federal jobs) and can be accessed through: www.firejobs.doi.gov. If you are new to the system, you will set up an account with your resume and personal information. To be considered for jobs at Mono Basin Fire Station and Topaz Interagency Fire Station, you must apply to **Bishop Field Office** during the application process (Our jobs are listed with other locations in California BLM). Additional information on positions can be viewed on the Vacancy Announcement posted on-line. Applicants must apply on-line via the **USA Jobs** system to be considered for any wildland fire positions. Please call us at the fire station if you need any help with the application process or if you have any additional questions about our program.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Mono Basin Fire Station

Lee Vining, CA

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Topaz Fire Station

Topaz/Walker, CA

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For additional information on available jobs as well as application assistance, please contact us via phone, email, or drop in and visit with us.



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VESTIGE OF WILD
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**CONSERVATION
EDUCATION
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