

HOT Careers *with the* BLM Alaska Fire Service



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Alaska Fire Service

Support Positions

Other employment opportunities in support functions exist throughout the BLM AFS. Opportunities include:

- Fire Dispatchers
- Warehouse Workers
- Supply Technicians
- Maintenance Mechanics
- Carpenters
- Motor Vehicle Operators
- Cooks
- Food Service Workers
- Information Technology Specialist
- Telecommunications Specialists
- Contract Specialists
- Administrative Services
- Fuel Distribution System Workers
- Aviation Management Specialists



Alaska Interagency Coordination Center

Dispatches initial attack resources, manages incident logistics, and collects and analyzes fire information. Opportunities include Fire Aviation Dispatchers.

Logistics Branch

Provides facilities maintenance, fire supply, transportation support, dining hall and barracks operations. Positions include Warehouse Workers, Supply Technicians, Maintenance Mechanics, Carpenters, Motor Vehicle Operators, Cooks and Food Service Workers.

Business and Technology Branch

Provides interagency telecommunications, remote weather sensing and lightning detection, and information resource management systems for the fire program. Positions include Technical Information Specialists and Electronic Mechanics, Budget Analysts, Purchasing Agents and Administrative Specialists.

Aviation Branch

Provides aviation and safety management to the fire program including dispatching and monitoring of aircraft loads, aircraft parking and fire retardant support. Positions include Fuel Distribution System Workers, Dispatchers, and Aviation Management Specialists.

Benefits

Most positions are hired under the federal Civil Service pay system. Pay ranges vary depending upon the position and your experience. Employees are paid overtime for hours worked beyond the regular shift. Firefighters receive hazard pay in certain circumstances. Temporary, career seasonal and permanent employees accrue sick and annual leave and are eligible for health and life insurance and retirement benefits.

How to Apply

Most temporary and career seasonal positions are advertised between October and January each year. Permanent full-time positions are advertised as vacancies occur. Check the USAJobs website often for new openings.

Apply at
www.usajobs.gov



For more information:

Bureau of Land Management
Alaska Fire Service
P.O. Box 35005
Fort Wainwright, Alaska 99703-0005
(907) 356-5600
<https://afs.ak.blm.gov>



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Smokejumper

Smokejumpers are specialized, experienced firefighters who parachute into remote areas to initial attack wildland fires. Smokejumpers go through rigorous and intense training and must be in top physical shape. Alaska Smokejumpers suppress and control fires using power saws and pumps with hose, hand tools and burning devices such as drip torches. You must have prior wildland fire suppression experience to apply.



For more information visit:
<https://afs.ak.blm.gov/fireops/fire-operations/smokejumpers.php>

Fire Specialist

Fire Specialists are highly trained personnel experienced in fire suppression, aviation operations, and hazardous fuel reduction. Fire Specialists primarily respond to extended attack fires, and when not on fire assignment, perform project work such as prescribed fire, aviation mission planning, fireline equipment development, and training coordination and support.



Hotshot

AFS sponsors two 20-person Type 1 Interagency Hotshot Crews. Work is of a hard, physical nature. Previous experience is not mandatory but is highly desirable. Applicants should be in excellent physical condition and must meet established fitness standards as a condition of continued employment. Hotshots can expect to live under primitive field conditions for weeks at a time and away from the home base for up to three months at a time.



For more information visit:
<https://afs.ak.blm.gov/fireops/fire-operations/hotshots.php>

Casual Hire/AD

More commonly known as Emergency Firefighters (EFF), BLM AFS hires crews on an as-needed basis from villages within the AFS Protection Area. These crews are used to supplement the regular work force in the event of wildfire emergencies. Crew structure for use in Alaska consists of 16-20 persons including one crew boss, three squad bosses, up to four sawyers and 8-16 crew members. Individuals hired for an EFF crew assignment must be at least 18 years of age and meet national standards for training, medical and physical fitness. BLM AFS hires short-term support personnel through the Fairbanks Job Center during periods of heavy fire activity. Positions include warehouse workers, drivers, timekeepers, food service workers and dispatchers. Fairbanks Job Center normally takes applications during the month of April.

North Star Crew

The North Star Fire Crew is an entry level crew and provides employment opportunities for individuals with limited or no fire experience. While on fires, crew members are paid Emergency Firefighter wages. When not on fires, project work will be performed on a volunteer/non-paid basis with housing and meals provided. This crew, classified as a Type 2 crew, provides an experienced pool of potential recruits for Type 1 Hotshot Crews.



For more information visit:
<https://afs.ak.blm.gov/fireops/fire-operations/north-stars.php>



There are many diverse career opportunities with BLM Alaska Fire Service. If you like working outside and in a rewarding career with the opportunity to protect and manage some of the most beautiful landscapes in the country, working with the BLM AFS may be for you.

Many BLM AFS employees began their career working as a temporary employee and progressed to become permanent employees with the organization. Temporary employees normally work from May through September. Career seasonals work a minimum of six months – April through September. Permanent full-time positions are year round. Employees may be stationed in remote field camps for up to two weeks. Payroll deduction is offered to pay for housing at the BLM barracks for temporary and career seasonal employees and meals are available at the BLM Dining hall, both located on Fort Wainwright.

Fireline positions require completing the Work Capacity Test at the arduous level. Fireline positions also have additional fitness requirements specific to the position.