

Wildland Firefighting Opportunities in Texas

Listed below is information for individuals interested in finding temporary or permanent employment as wildland firefighters in Texas.

- Anyone interested in applying for permanent or part-time positions with any of the federal land management agencies (US Forest Service, National Park Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service, or Bureau of Land Management) must go to the national employment website at <http://www.usajobs.gov>. Click on "Search Jobs" and then enter "Firefighter" in the "Keyword Search" block. This site advertises for and allows you to apply for jobs within Texas, as well as anywhere in the U.S. Most summer seasonal jobs will be found in the western states. Few summer firefighters are hired in the southern states.
- Those wanting to work for the Texas Forest Service may find openings for permanent jobs at <http://texasforestsERVICE.tamu.edu> under the "Employment" tab. Seasonal jobs are not posted on the web site, but you may contact your local Texas Forest Service office to see if there are opportunities for part-time work during periods of high fire danger. A list of TFS offices can be found at the link listed above, under the "Contact Us" tab.

Many of the agencies will require applicants to have successfully completed the Basic Firefighting and Introduction to Fire Behavior course (NWCG S-130/190). This is a 32-40 hour course that is offered twice each year at the Texas Interagency Wildfire Academies in Lufkin in May and in Bastrop in October. The academy schedule will be posted approximately three months prior to each academy at <http://www.tamu.edu/ticc>. In addition to the course work, each person will be required to complete a physical fitness test consisting of a three-mile walk with a 45-pound pack in 45 minutes or less. (Note: certain seasonal jobs with TFS may only require a 16-minute walk with no pack).

Once a person is hired and all pre-requisites have been met, a qualifications card (or "red card" as it is more widely known) will be issued indicating the individual is certified as a basic wildland firefighter. You must be employed by one of the federal or state agencies in order to receive a red card.