

VALE BLM FIRE CENTER
100 Oregon Street
Vale, OR 97918
Phone# (541) 473-6280
Fax# (541) 473-6328

INTRODUCTION

The Snake River Valley (SRV) firefighting program was developed at Vale, Oregon, by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The severe fire season of 1963 demonstrated a need for a well trained and organized firefighting force. Vale is the home of the Snake River Valley (SRV) Fire Program, which for 47 years has produced one of the largest trained groups of Type II and type II-IA crews. In 1964, the BLM recognized the potential in the large population of Mexican-American farm laborers in the Snake River Valley of Western Idaho and Eastern Oregon. The formal structuring of the SRV program made it possible to utilize this tremendous work force along with high school and college students looking for summer work, into a largely self sufficient organization of between 300 and 500 firefighters ready to respond to wild land fires or natural disasters anywhere in the United States.

Wild land firefighting is one of the most dangerous occupations in the United States, primarily because of risk to employees and isolation from medical assistance. Although quite elementary at first, the training program has increased over the years in scope, content, and sophistication. Safety is the number one priority. Each spring 75 to 100 rookie firefighters spend four days of intensive classroom training and two days of hands-on field work exercises in a natural wild land setting. Included in the training are fire fighting safety, crew structure and chain of command, fire equipment operation and maintenance, hand tool use and maintenance, fire fighting strategy and techniques, weather and fire behavior observation, and many other fire fighting skills and abilities. Many of the SRV crew members, squad leaders, and Crew Chiefs have from 10 to 35 years of actual experience on all types of wild fire assignments and natural disasters. As crew bosses retire, crews are passed on to squad leaders working up the chain of command. They are proud of the fire fighting heritage passed on from one generation to the next. Their willingness to work hard under difficult conditions is exceptional. The SRV crews are guided by a tradition of excellence and pride that is part of the best wild land fire fighting group in the nation.

The SRV program has also become a useful tool for those seeking an opportunity for a full time, career wild fire position with government agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), US Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Dept. of Natural Resources, or various state forest agencies.

Following are the conditions of hire for applicants who wish to pursue employment with the SRV program.



New Firefighter Need to sign-up in March with the Ontario Employment Department located at: 375 SW2nd Ave. Ontario, OR 97914
(541)889-5394

2010 Pay Rates: \$17.08 p/h

Vale BLM's SRV Office: 541-473-6280

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
SNAKE RIVER VALLEY FIREFIGHTERS CONDITIONS OF HIRE

You are hired as an Emergency Firefighter (call when needed) to suppress wildfires for the Bureau of Land Management. You could be out on an incident for 14-16 consecutive days, often working in excess of 12 hours per day performing arduous field duties requiring physical performance with above average endurance and superior conditioning. These duties may include an occasional demand for extraordinarily strenuous activities in emergencies under adverse environmental conditions and over extended periods of time. Requirements include; running, walking, hiking, climbing, jumping, twisting, bending, and lifting more than 50 pounds; the pace of work is typically set by the emergency conditions. **You must be 18 years of age.**

In addition, you must pass the Work Capacity Test (WCT) at the arduous level. All applicants who are 45 yrs of age or older **are required to complete a physical examination from a licensed physician in accordance with the Work Capacity Fitness Test Guidelines.**

Crew members who cannot complete a 14-16 day assignment because of prior personal reasons (court dates, school, Dr.'s appointment other employment, ect.) will not be dispatched. Anyone violating this condition will pay for their own travel expenses and will be terminated from the SRV Program, if prior arrangements have not been made.

1. Earnings will be paid at hourly rates for each hour you work during your employment. Your Crew Representative can advise you of these rates. Commissary purchases will be entered and deducted from your total pay.
2. All disputes about time must be settled with the Finance Unit Leader at the incident and/or your Crew Representative prior to signing your time sheet. You will not be paid until you return to your point of hire. Payment will be generated through the Casual Payment Center in Boise, ID., either through Direct Deposit or a check through the mail. Contact your bank institution after five **working days** or if it's through the mail wait up to 10 working days after you return from an incident. Do not call the SRV office inquiring about payment.
3. During times of employment, possession of firearms, intoxicating beverages, and all forms of addictive drugs (barbiturate pep pills, cocaine), amphetamines, hallucinatory drugs (marijuana, buttons) not prescribed by a physician are prohibited. **This includes travel time to and from an incident, work, R&R, and on and off shift times.** Any unauthorized possessions of these articles, or sufficient evidence of their usage will be grounds for immediate termination.
4. Violation of Conditions of Hire, laziness, violation of civil law, or other conditions precipitated by unacceptable behavior shall be grounds for immediate termination. Any infraction resulting in the demobilization of an individual will require the responsible individual to pay travel and meal costs for the return trip to their home unit.

5. Demobilization of individuals because of family emergencies will be initiated by the home unit who will verify requests and who will contact the proper personnel at the incident. Emergency demobilizations cannot be initiated by the individual firefighter. Any fire individual released from a fire incident because of injury or illness will be returned to the point of hire by the fire personnel in coordination with the home unit.

6. All transportation and subsistence will be at the Government expense from the point of hire until the point of termination, or at a site where conditions warrant prior termination.

8. Each employee is responsible for supplying the following equipment;
 - Boots; minimum 8-inches, all leather tops, laced up type, with vibram non-slip soles.

 - One shirt and pants that are approved fire resistant (NOMAX).

 - Hard hat (non-metal)

 - Gloves (leather).

 - Headlamp, with batteries sufficient for one shift.

 - Sleeping bag.

***** Personal gear and toiletries, **enough to last 14 days. Total weight must not exceed 65-lbs.** *****

Report any damage to or loss, by fire, of your personal property to your supervisor. **The Government assumes no responsibility for loss of personal items not necessary for firefighting. Boom box radios weighing over 1 lbs. are prohibited. Items which are authorized and are proven necessary are the only excep**

By signing this document: I am responsible for reporting all injuries and sickness to my supervisor immediately. Failure to do so will result in loss of any medical assistance I may deserve. **Do not wait until you get home to report any injuries or sickness.**

If you have had a prior injury which may impair your performance as an SRV firefighter, an SF 78 (Certificate of Medical Examination) will be filled out by a physician, you must meet the requirements of the SF 78. BLM has the right to refuse employment to anyone that has an unsatisfactory history of injuries in preceding years.

Your request for a fire identification card includes a space for your Social Security Number. Disclosure of your Social Security Number is mandatory for purposes of identification and payroll information. If the number is not disclosed, a fire identification card will not be issued. Solicitation of the Social Security Number is authorized under provisions of Executive Order 9397, Dated November 22, 1943.

I am (check one of the following):

A United States Citizen

A Lawful Permanent Resident INS#: _____ **Expiration Date:** _____

Authorized to work in the United States INS#: _____ **Expiration Date:** _____

How many fires did you attend last year? _____

Answering YES to the following question will not necessarily prevent you from acquiring employment as an emergency firefighter.

During the last 10 years, have you been convicted, imprisoned, on probation, or been on parole? (Includes felonies, firearms or explosives violations, misdemeanors, and all other offenses) YES
NO _____

Are you now under charges for any violation of law? YES ___ NO ___

During the last 5 years, were you fired from any job for any reason? YES ___ NO ___

REMARKS: (to any of the above questions): _____

I agree to meet all of the Condition-of-Hire requirements listed throughout the duration of my employment with the Bureau of Land Management, and I understand that my failure to abide by these conditions may result in immediate discharge or termination of my firefighting privileges. I will follow all safety practices, and not jeopardize my own safety, or the safety of others.

Using false or fraudulent documentation are grounds for not hiring you or for firing you after you begin work. Also, you may be punished by a fine or imprisonment (U.S. Code, title 18, section 1001). I **understand** that a false or fraudulent statement may be grounds for not hiring me or firing me after I begin work. I **understand** that any information I give may be investigated for purposes of determining eligibility for Federal employment as allowed by law or Presidential order. I **certify** that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, **all** of the information and statements are true, correct, complete, and in good faith.

I hereby authorize the Bureau of Land Management to release any and all information requested by the Department of Health and Welfare, Housing Authorities, or State Employment Agencies related to my circumstances, Income, etc., with the understanding that this information is confidential.

EFF SIGNATURE: _____ AGE: _____

PRINT YOUR NAME: _____ SS #: _____

AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: _____ DATE: _____

Interested applicants may contact the SRV Office between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Phone: 541-473-6230

This page is created and maintained by the Bureau of Land Management, Oregon/Washington, Vale District Office. This is a US Government Computer System, before continuing, please read the following: Acceptable Use Policy, Disclaimer and Privacy Policy.