



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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To: All BLM State Fire Management Officers

From: Branch Chief, Fire and Aviation, California State Office

Subject: Wildland Firefighter Apprenticeship Program Recruitment and Selection – 2008

The purpose of this Information Bulletin is to start the recruitment and selection process for the 2008 Basic Apprenticeship Academies. This process will be conducted by each State Office Branch of Human Resources. All apprentices will continue to be hired under the Student Career Education Program (SCEP) authority. States may select non-competitively in accordance with the SCEP hiring authority; a national vacancy announcement will not be issued. Each state may select on a competitive basis, however vacancy announcements will be processed by the respective State Office Branch of Human Resources for states that choose this process.

The following timeline has been established for response by the State Apprenticeship Coordinators for participation in the 2008 Apprenticeship Program.

<u>Action</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Responsibility</u>
State Recruitment Bulletin (for competitive selections only)	10/12/07 (closing date)	State Apprenticeship Coordinators / State Office Human Resources
Request number of slots needed for 2008 Basic Academies	10/12/07	State Apprenticeship Coordinators
Submit names of employees selected for 2008 Basic Academies	10/26/07	State Apprenticeship Coordinators
Submit final changes to slot allocations for 2008	11/09/07	State Apprenticeship Coordinators
Provide names of Apprentices returning for Advanced Academies	11/09/07	State Apprenticeship Coordinators

The National Office of Fire and Aviation will continue to cover the cost of tuition, room and board for participation in the Apprenticeship Program for two people per state for each Academy, both the Basic and Advanced (a total of four apprentices each year). States wishing to enroll more than two people per Academy should advise the BLM Apprenticeship Program staff as soon as possible. As in the past, if you choose to send more than two people to the Basic Academy, your state will encumber the cost of \$2,750 per person for each person over the two person allocation covered by the National Office of Fire and Aviation. This cost covers lodging, meals (Monday through Friday,) and tuition for the Basic Academy. Each state is responsible for the salary, overtime, uniform allowance, travel and per diem (Saturday and Sunday) for all program participants, in both the Basic and Advanced Academies.

All slots requested by a state which are not filled after November 9, 2007, become the fiscal responsibility of that state. Please ensure that your State Coordinator advises the BLM Apprenticeship Program staff of any changes in the requested slots *before* November 9, 2007. Be prepared to furnish a charge code if more than two slots are requested for either the Basic or Advanced Academy. As indicated in the table above, State Apprenticeship Coordinators must also provide the names of people returning for the Advanced Academies for 2008 no later than November 9. In the event there is a no show for the Advanced Academy after that date, the state will encumber the cost of \$3,526.

Overtime required during the Basic and Advanced Academies (this does not include travel to and from the Academy site):

Basic Academy	Academy check-in and Orientation	NTE 2 hours
	Agency Orientation	NTE 1 hour
	Field Exercise	NTE 6 hours
	<i>Total</i>	<i>NTE 9 hours</i>
Advanced Academy	Academy check-in and Orientation	NTE 2 hours
	Agency Administrative Follow-up	NTE 1 hour
	Field Exercise	NTE 4 hours
	<i>Total</i>	<i>NTE 7 hours</i>

The term of apprenticeship is 4,000 work hours, during a period not less than two or more than four calendar years. Please visit the website at <http://www.wfap.net> for curriculum information and prerequisite training for academy attendance.

On the first morning of the Basic Academy, the S-190 Introduction to Fire Behavior examination will be given (*this course is an Academy prerequisite and is NOT taught at the academy*). Apprentices must pass the examination with a score of at least 80 percent to remain in the program. Those who do not pass are returned to the home unit for removal from the apprenticeship program.

Basic Academies for 2008 will be held on the following dates:

Basic Academy 42	February 17 – March 14
Basic Academy 43	February 24 – March 21
Basic Academy 44	March 16 – April 11

Advanced Academies for 2008 will be held on the following dates:

Advanced Academies 39/40/41 January 13 through February 8

We have seen outstanding apprenticeship representation on behalf of the agency over the years in both academic and physical achievement. We look forward to working with you in achieving training and workforce management objectives through this program.

Timeframe: Please reference the due dates in the table above.

Contact: Please contact Paul Bannister at 916-978-4437 for assistance, or e-mail at paul_bannister@ca.blm.gov.

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