

## Other Smokejumper Requirements

Due to the extreme physical demands of the job, all jumpers must be in excellent physical condition. It is not uncommon to construct fireline for 14-16 hours per day on a regular basis.

**Vision:** Distant vision of greater than 20/100 Snellen in one eye and 20/200 in the other eye is not allowed. Corrected vision greater than 20/20 in one eye and 20/30 in the other is permissible with the use of eye-glasses or contact lenses. Candidates must be able to read typewritten size characters and be able to pass the Eldridge Green lantern test or equivalent for color vision.

**Hearing:** Using audiometer should be no loss of decibels in each ear at speech rate.

**Size:** Candidates must be a minimum of 5' tall and maximum of 6'5" tall. No less than 120 pounds and no greater than 200 pounds.

**Age:** Minimum 18 years of age.

**Experience:** Candidates must have 2 seasons of forestry experience, one being a main fire position. Fire experience is defined as a member of an organized fire suppression crew working in mountainous terrain. This experience must include training in fire suppression methods, techniques, and safety. Hotshot crew experience is optimal.

**Important:** Rookie candidates are expected to have basic firefighting skills and a working knowledge of fireline tactics before they are hired. Previous parachute training is neither required nor advantageous.

### How Do I Apply?

If you satisfy all the above requirements applicants for NCSB or Redmond smokejumper bases should send their completed SF-171 and supplemental Personal Qualifications Statements (available at any Forest Service office) to:

**USDA Forest Service—IH  
Automated Temporary Employment Office  
1249 South Vinnell Way  
Suite 108  
Boise, ID 83709**

\*Contact Bases prior to mailing application to ensure proper mailing address.

Applications are accepted between October 2 and November. There are a large number of applications received every year. They are rated based on work experience and education. Selections are made from these ratings, recommendations, and qualifications. Selected rookie candidates usually receive notification in February. The number of openings change every year. With notification, candidates receive a medical form that must be completed by a licensed physician. The results must be satisfactory and the cost is covered by the hiring agency. It is essential that all rookie candidates report for training in excellent physical condition. The training period is far too long to wait for notification of selection. Candidates should train through regular strenuous exercise including uphill running, calisthenics, aerobic conditioning, weight training, practice pack –outs and regular self testing of the minimum PT requirements.

## National Smokejumper Base Information

North Cascades Smokejumper  
Base  
23 Intercity Airport Road  
Winthrop, WA 98862  
509.997.2032 Fax 509.997.2077

McCall Smokejumper Base  
Box 1026  
McCall, ID 83638  
208.634.0383 or 0378  
Fax 208.634.0385

West Yellowstone Smokejumper  
Base  
Box 610  
West Yellowstone, MT 59758  
406.646.7691  
Fax 406.646.9598

California Smokejumpers  
6101 Airport Road  
Redding, CA 96002  
530.226.2889 or 2885  
Fax 530.225.2887

Great Basin Smokejumpers BLM  
3833 South Development Avenue  
Boise, ID 83705  
208.387.5426  
Fax 208.387.5399

Redmond Air Center  
1740 Ochoco Way  
Redmond, OR 97756  
541.548.8772 (8774 or 8775)  
Fax 541.548.8809

Grangeville Air Center  
Route 2 Box 475  
Grangeville, ID 83530  
208.983.1964 (5141 or 4142)  
Fax 208.983.5145

Missoula Smokejumper  
Aerial Fire Depot  
Box 6, Airport Terminal  
406.329.4893 (4896 or 4892)  
Fax 406.329.4891

Alaska Smokejumpers BLM  
P.O. Box 35005  
Fort Wainwright, AK 99703  
907.356.5541  
Fax 907.356.5078



**North Cascade  
Smokejumpers**

## Recruitment Information USDA Forest Service



Presenting you with a unique job  
opportunity in wildland firefighting

# What is a Smokejumper

Smokejumping was developed in the late 1930's as a means to quickly reach fires in remote road-less areas for initial attack.

The primary mission of a smokejumper is fighting fire! Along with parachuting, smokejumpers may be delivered to fires via helicopter, by vehicle or on foot.

Smokejumpers are considered a national resource and are occasionally deployed as a 20-person crew throughout the United States.

The North Cascades Smokejumper Base in Winthrop, Washington employs a force of 22 smokejumpers. Region 6 (Washington & Oregon) has a total of 57 jumpers with 35 stationed at Redmond Air Center in Oregon.

The North Cascades Smokejumpers are dispatched to fires in 11 western states on Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs and state owned lands. Smokejumpers are often sent to other regions to assist with fire suppression efforts and other projects.



## What do Smokejumpers Do?

Smokejumpers are deployed on fires of all sizes that are usually located in rugged mountainous terrain far from roads or easy access. When dispatched, 8 smokejumpers will quickly suit-up, receive a spotter check for gear, then load into the aircraft. Once over the fire the spotter selects a safe jump spot, measures wind speed and direction using drift streamers, then deploys the jumpers in groups of two. After the proper number of smokejumpers are safely on the ground, the aircraft will drop cargo to supply the jumpers with all the essential items to fight fire. The smokejumpers then dig line and continue working to control, monitor, and mop-up the fire. Smokejumpers are expected to stay on the fire until it is completely out or until the host unit makes the decision to release them.

After the fire is out or the smokejumpers are released the jumpers must gather gear and prepare for the most difficult task of all... THE PACK OUT! A typical smokejumper pack bag will weigh between 100-125 pounds (although 135 pounds is not uncommon). The smokejumpers must pack everything out to the nearest road.



## What is Rookie Training?

Rookie training begins the first week of June and lasts for several weeks. On the first day of training all new candidates must pass the Physical Training (PT) test: 25 push ups, 45 sit ups, and a 1.5 miles run in under 11 minutes.

We cannot stress enough that these are the bare minimums. It is suggested that candidates be able to double the amount of pull ups, and sit ups. If unable to pass the PT test the candidate will be dropped from the program.

Other physical tests that must be completed during the first week are 2 simulated pack outs. The first is 110 pounds packed over a flat 3 mile course under 90 minutes. The second is 85 pounds over hilly, mountainous terrain.

Candidates are also tested on fire line construction skills with many hours



of arduous, simulated line construction. This week as well as the weeks to come include a running and calisthenics program done twice a day, everyday!

The second week of training consists of specialized unit tests, which give the candidates simulated training in aircraft exits, let downs, and PLF's (parachute landing falls). Other training covers emergency procedures, aircraft protocol, mass exits, and reserve parachute deployment. All rookie candidates must pass a proficiency test in every unit. Those who cannot pass these units test will be dropped from the program.

The last portion of rookie training is a series of 15 actual jumps in which the candidate will graduate from large, wide open jump spots to smaller, tighter spots in timber. Candidates must demonstrate the ability to safely manipulate and land the parachute.

