

How to become a Helicopter Rappeller



USDA Forest Service, Intermountain Region (R-4)
Payette National Forest

Who We Are

The Price Valley Heli-Rappel Crew is a wildfire initial attack and large fire support organization. We employ up to 24 people annually. Two Crew Supervisors, two Assistant Crew Supervisors, four GS-6/7 Squad leaders, and four GS-5 Senior Firefighters are permanent appointments. The remaining positions are Temporary Seasonal Firefighters filled at the GS-4 and GS-5 level. We contract 2 type 2 rappal capable helicopters from mid-May through September. The primary mission of both forest-based helicopters is initial attack and large fire support across the region and nation. The helicopters and crew also participate in a variety of project work throughout the season. Projects range from flying supplies to remote lookouts, performing aerial recon, or slinging materials to remote sites for trail work, etc.

The seasonal employees generally begin work around the middle of May. All candidates will spend the first 3 weeks in a variety of required training including: Chainsaw Use, Fire Refresher, First Aid/CPR, S-271 Interagency Helicopter Crewmember Training, and Rappel Training. The Payette fire organization holds a fire training week around the first week of June where several 200 level S and L Courses are offered. Price Valley Crewmembers are enrolled into as many of these classes as possible during this week. Other training is picked up during the season as time permits. The fire season typically winds down in late September. However, we will often continue to employ seasonals well into October or beyond as forest project work dictates. Price Valley has two, 4 room bunkhouses available for seasonal employees and detailers.

Price Valley Helibase is located at the historic Price Valley Guard Station, 12 miles west of New Meadows, Idaho. New Meadows is located in West Central Idaho, 20 minutes from McCall and 2.5 hours north of Boise. The surrounding area offers a great number of recreational opportunities. There are numerous trails for hiking and mountain bike riding. The New Meadows area also offers a variety of rivers and lakes for fishing, boating, rafting and kayaking.

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What We're Looking For

We will fill seasonal positions with experienced firefighters. At a minimum, candidates shall have at least one season working for a resource management agency working exclusively in fire. Competition for these positions is high. Most individuals hired have more than two seasons in fire and display numerous fire qualifications (i.e. EMT, FALC, ICT5, HECM, CRWB).

As you know, wildland firefighting is physically demanding work. Possibly the most demanding aspect of being a rappeller is the pack out. Rappellers are often put into remote locations and expected to be able to pack themselves and their equipment (up to 110 lbs.) out to the nearest road or pickup point. On the Payette NF, pack-outs of 8-12 miles are not uncommon. Therefore, physical fitness and conditioning are absolute necessities. Experience has shown that in addition to performing the job better, fit employees generally have less injuries throughout the fire season.

We require that candidates meet rigorous levels of physical fitness. All candidates are tested the first week and, **AT A MINIMUM**, are expected to meet the following physical requirements:

- 1.5 Mile Run 10:35 minutes or less
- Chin-ups 7
- Push-ups 25 in 1 minute
- Sit-ups 40 in 1 minute
- 85# Pack Test 3 miles over typical terrain in 1.5 hrs or less
- WCT 45# Pack Test 3 miles, 45 minutes (condition of hire)

Please remember these are minimum requirements. Candidates should expect to PT once or twice daily during the first three weeks of the season, and 1 to 1½ hrs daily for the rest of the year. All applicants are encouraged to exceed these minimum requirements. **WE CANNOT EXPRESS ENOUGH THE IMPORTANCE OF SHOWING UP IN GOOD SHAPE.**

If you are interested in a seasonal position with the Price Valley Heli-Rappel Crew, you must apply through USAJOBS. We typically request a referral list by the 2nd of January each year. Competition for these positions can be very stiff. It would be to your advantage to apply by our deadline and call us as well as mail (or email) a copy of your resume.

Contact Information

Cory Dolberry / Andy Guest Helitack Supervisors
cdolberry@fs.fed.us or aguest@fs.fed.us
Price Valley Helibase 208-347-0327 (April-October)
New Meadows RD 208-347-0318 or 0306 (November-March)

Visit us at:
www.fs.usda.gov/detail/payette/landmanagement/resourcemanagement/?cid=fsm9_030948

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The Price Valley Heli-Rappel Crew will be filling several 1039 Temporary positions for the 2013 season.

These positions are being advertised under the Open Continuous Announcements listed below.

Applications must be submitted prior to **Tuesday January 1st, 2013** in order to be considered for this position.

A referral list will be requested on or shortly after that date
Indicate **New Meadows, ID** as the duty station.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

| Series | Specialty | Grade | Announcement Number | Contact |
|--------|-----------------------------|-------|-----------------------|--|
| 0462 | Forestry Tech (Helitack) | GS-4 | TEMPOCR-462-4-HLTK-DT | Andy Guest (208) 347-0306 or Cory Dolberry (208) 347-0318 |
| 0462 | Forestry Tech (Helitack) | GS-5 | TEMPOCR-462-5-HLTK-DT | Andy Guest (208) 347-0306 or Cory Dolberry (208) 347-0318 |

Position qualifications can be found at: <http://www.opm.gov/qualifications/>

These positions are advertised as an open continuous recruitment announcement.

Announcements for these positions are on the USAJOBS websites. You can go to:
www.usajobs.gov

To receive a hard copy application, call 1-877-372-7248.

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This web-based application provides individuals interested in employment opportunities with the Forest Service the opportunity to apply for jobs. After logging into USAJOBS you can create and update Applicant Profiles, search for current vacancy announcements, create a job search profile, apply for jobs, and check the status of jobs for which you have applied. Please use the "USAJOBS Location" New Meadows, ID as your preference location on your application.

Application Instructions

Apply online at

www.usajob.gov

1. Create a profile
2. Search for jobs

Forestry Technician (Helitack) GS-0462-04 \$13.41 / Hr
(OCRT-462-4-HLTK-DT) Multiple Locations

Forestry Technician (Helitack) GS-0462-05 \$15.00 / Hr
(OCRT-462-5-HLTK-DT) Multiple Locations

3. Click Apply Online
4. Upload Resume
5. Select location

New Meadows, Idaho

WORK CAPACITY TEST (WCT) for Wildland Firefighters: This position participates in wildland firefighting activities. Based on the type of work performed, TAKING and PASSING the WCT at the ARDUOUS level is a condition of employment. The Arduous fitness (Pack) test consists of a three (3) mile hike, within forty-five (45) minutes, while carrying a forty-five (45) pound pack. You are strongly encouraged to consult with your physician and begin training immediately if you are applying for this position. This announcement constitutes the required 30 days advanced notice for testing requirements.

If you are interested in a seasonal position with the Price Valley Heli- Rappel Crew you must apply through USAJOBS as described above. We will hire off of the national announcements for helitack. Competition for positions on the rappel crew is very stiff. If you are seriously interested it would be to your advantage to mail (or email) a copy of your resume and the following information to us. It is important that ALL of the information below is filled out. Also, candidates should make every effort to stop by and meet with us in person prior to the hiring season. Please call ahead to schedule a time.

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Name: _____

Formal Training Completed (Enter year Attended)

| Course Title | YEAR COMPLETED |
|--|----------------|
| I-100 ICS | |
| I-200 Basic ICS | |
| S-130 Basic Firefighter | |
| S-131 Advanced Firefighter Training | |
| S-133 Look up Look Down | |
| S-190 Introduction to Fire Behavior | |
| S-200 Initial Attack I.C. | |
| S-211 Portable Pumps and Water Use | |
| S-212 Power Saws | |
| S-215 Fire Ops in the Urban Interface | |
| S-230 Crew Boss | |
| S-234 Ignition Operations | |
| S-260 Fire Business Management | |
| S-270 Basic Air Operations | |
| S-271 Interagency Helicopter training | |
| S-281 Supervisory Concepts/Techniques | |
| S-290 Intermediate Fire Behavior | |
| S-390 Fire Behavior Calculations | |
| Interagency Helicopter Rappel Training | |

List current fire qualifications and task books (i.e. FFT1, FALC, STLD tr.)

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Qualifications: | |
| Open Task Books: | |

Dates of your availability:

From: Day _____ Month _____

To: Day _____ Month _____

State in which Driver's License is issued and any endorsements or limitations: _____.

Time in the 1.5 Mile Run: _____.

Number of Pull-ups: _____.

Number of Sit-ups in 1 minute: _____.

Number of Push-ups in 1 minute: _____.

Please send information to:

New Meadows Ranger District

Attn: Andy Guest or Cory Dolberry

PO Box J

New Meadows, Id 83654

Phone: (208) 347-0306

Fax: (208) 347-0309

Email: cdolberry@fs.fed.us, aguest@fs.fed.us