

Elko BLM Helitack

Our primary mission is to initial attack wildland fires in Northeast Nevada. The fire season in Elko typically runs from June to September, but may be extended depending on the severity of the fire season. In addition to our assignments locally we will respond wherever requested by Western Great Basin Coordination Center. Our organization consists of a 10 person Helitack crew, a Type 3 helicopter, and a chase truck. During the period 1999-2003 we initial attacked 232 wildland fires and supported 73 other fires, flying a total of 1248 hours.

What We Have to Offer

The last two years we have averaged 46 fires per year. The majority of the time we are first on the scene; at the critical time when judgement, teamwork, and aggressive action can make a difference. We actively seek out fire assignments, training opportunities, and details for our crewmembers. Since 1995 we have sent members of our crew on assignment to Canada, Mexico, Alaska, Florida, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana. In addition we have hosted detailers from other BLM districts, Boise Smokejumpers, Russian Smokejumpers, Alaska Department of Forestry, and 777 Hot Shots. It is expected that you will progress each year in your experience, training, and qualifications.

Crew Organization

The Elko Helitack Crew has traditionally been a six person crew; in 2002 we expanded to ten. The crew consist of a Foreman, an Assistant Foreman, and two 4 person Squads.

Selection Criteria

Our success as a crew depends on the efforts of each individual crewmember. We only consider those applicants with previous wildland firefighting experience. We are looking for firefighters who have the qualities which we consider essential:

- Good judgement in spite of stress, fatigue, or hardship**
- The ability to work independently or as part of a team**
- Ready & able to adapt to your circumstances**
- Motivated**
- Self-disciplined**
- Above average intelligence**
- Sense of humor**
- Excellent physical fitness**

Helitack Training

• **Classroom Training:** Approximately 40 hours will be spent in the classroom during your initial Helitack Training (S-217). It is mandatory that rookie crewmembers successfully complete this course. In addition to S-217 we will cover a wide variety of fire & aviation subjects including: LCES, Aviation Watchout Situations, Fire Tactics & Strategy, Fireline Construction, Firing Techniques, Radio Use & Programming, Pumps & Saws, Land Navigation & Map Use, Aircraft Crash Rescue, & Helitack Operations with Engines, Handcrews, Smokejumpers, & Medivac Aircraft.

• **Physical Training:** Initially PT will be done as a group twice each day. The purpose of this strenuous training program is to prepare you physically and mentally for the demands of wildland firefighting. It is imperative that you report for work in excellent physical condition. You will be expected to meet the following minimum standards: 1 ½ mile run in 11 minutes or less, 7 pull-ups, 25 push-ups, 45 sit-ups, the Pack Test in 45 minutes or less. Helitack personnel are encouraged to meet the following standards: 1 ½ mile run in 9:30, 4 mile run in 30 minutes, 10 pull-ups, 35 push-ups, 60 sit-ups, the Pack Test in 40 minutes or less. The following workouts will be incorporated into the initial physical training: 4 to 6 mile runs, sets of 440's & 880's, hill runs, and timed marches with a pack in the hills.

Location & Accommodations

Our base is co-located with the Elko Interagency Dispatch Center at Harris Field in Elko, Nevada near the junction of Interstate 80 and Mountain City Highway. On site are office facilities, ready room, storage, and two pads suitable for Type 3 helicopters. A barracks is planned for the future; in the meantime however, alternative arrangements for housing may be available.

Work Dates & Rates of Pay

For seasonal employees the start date for the 2004 fire season will be mid- May and crewmembers can expect to work until mid-October. Most of our crewmembers are hired on a seasonal appointment as GS 4's or 5's (depending on the individuals experience & qualifications).

How to Apply

We anticipate filling a limited number of seasonal openings for the 2004 fire season. Interested applicants should submit an application through the Quick Hire on line application system at (Quickhire) www.firejobs.doi.gov. Applications will be accepted from December 1, 2003 through January 15, 2004. For more information please contact:

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Email Juan_Torrealday@nv.blm.gov

Assistant Foreman – Brian Deck

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