

Local BIA Agency Still Recruiting Summer Firefighters

The Eastern Nevada Agency (ENA) of the Bureau of Indian Affairs is still accepting applications through April 15 for on-call wildland firefighters for the upcoming fire season.

“We have had a lot of applications so far, and we would like to remind anyone that is interested to submit an application before the April deadline”, said ENA Acting Fire Management Officer Jayson Walker. “We hope to have enough firefighters to put together 3 or 4 handcrews this season.”

Firefighting handcrews consist of 20 men and women who travel to fires throughout the United States, for up to 20 days at a time. They work long hours in remote locations constructing firelines to halt the spread of wildfires. Last year, local ENA firefighters fought fires in Idaho, Montana, and Nevada, and also spent over a month in eastern Texas assisting NASA with the search and recovery effort after the Space Shuttle Columbia disaster.

“Even though the fire crews are only activated and paid during fires or emergencies, it is an excellent opportunity to gain firefighting experience and earn money at the same time,” Walker added.

Firefighters must be 18 years old prior to June 6, 2004, must be a U.S. citizen, and must pass a pre-employment physical fitness test. The fitness test, or “pack test”, consists of a three mile hike over flat ground in 45 minutes or less, and carrying a 45 pound pack.

Applications are available from the front desk at the Elko BLM Office, located at 3900 E. Idaho Street in Elko, or at the Te-Moak Tribal Administration building located at 525 Sunset Street. Applications submitted after April 15, 2004 will not be accepted. For more information, contact ENA Acting Fire Management Officer Jayson Walker at 775-753-0395.