

Fact Sheet – Qualifications
Temporary Seasonal Fire Positions
Range/Forestry Aid or Technician - GS-0455/0462

NEW - Interagency Fire Program Management (IFPM) Qualifications Standards for wildland fire positions became effective October 1, 2010. National Wildland Coordinating Group (NWCG) qualifications will be required for most wildland fire positions at the GS-5 and above. The table below shows what will be required for the majority wildland fire positions under the “Selective Factor” column. **NOTE:** These requirements are in addition to the basic/minimum qualification requirements that are stated in the vacancy announcement. You can find more information regarding IFPM at <http://www.ifpm.nifc.gov/>.

How will this affect you? If you were a GS-5 prior to October 1, 2010 and did not obtain the required IFPM qualification, you may not be eligible to return the next fire season in the grade and/or position you were in. You may be eligible to return at a lower grade or another position until you obtain the required NWCG qualifications.

Basic Qualification Standards - The following table shows the amounts of education and/or experience required to qualify for temporary wildland firefighter positions. To qualify at each grade level, applicants must meet the general and specialized experience **OR** the educational requirements **OR** have a combination of each beginning with the GS-3. General experience is any type of work that demonstrates the applicant's ability to perform the work of the position; this does not have to be in a fire position.

Grade	EXPERIENCE		OR	EDUCATION	Selective Factor
	General and Specialized				Selective factors are in addition to the basic experience and/or education requirements
GS-2	3 months	None		High school graduation or equivalent	None
GS-3	6 months	None		1 year above high school with 6 semester hours of related course(s)*	None
GS-4	6 months	6 months equivalent to at least the GS-3 level		2 years above high school with 12 semester hours of related courses*	90 days of prior on-the-line wildland firefighting experience
GS-5	None	1 year equivalent to at least a GS-4 level		4-year course of study above high school leading to a bachelor's degree with 24 semester hours of related courses**	FFT1 AND completion of S-290 course
GS-6 & above	None	1 year equivalent to the next lower grade (i.e. for the GS-7, 1 year equivalent to GS-6)		Master/Graduate level education as defined in the vacancy announcement – must be directly related to the work of the position	Varies by position. Check with local fire office for more detailed information

**Qualifying coursework is defined as courses such as: forestry, agriculture, crop or plant science, range management or conservation, wildlife management, watershed management, soil science, natural resources (except marine fisheries and oceanography), outdoor recreation management, civil or forest engineering, or wildland fire science.*

***For the GS-5, only courses after the first 60 semester hours are creditable (Junior and Senior Level)*