

State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources



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February 8, 2018

DOF accepting applications for wildland firefighter academy in McGrath

(Fairbanks, AK) – The Alaska Division of Forestry is now accepting applications for its 2018 Alaska Advanced Wildland Firefighter Academy to be held May 14-31 in McGrath. The deadline to apply is March 15.

The academy is designed to increase knowledge and skills for entry-level firefighters. The course includes training in the use of portable pumps and hoses, chainsaws, air operations, basic land navigation, leadership and safety. Students will receive Red Card certifications for Firefighter Type 1-Trainee (Squad Boss), Helicopter Crewmember-Trainee, and Basic Faller-Trainee.

To be eligible for the academy, applicants must be qualified as a Wildland Firefighter Type 2 and be sponsored by a Division of Forestry Area Office. Applications will be scored to determine who qualifies for the academy.

Students must provide their own transportation to and from McGrath. Assistance with travel expenses may be available for students from their respective Native organizations. Participants who are not regular employees of the State of Alaska will be registered as volunteers and will not be paid. Participants will receive free room and board in McGrath.

A typical academy day will include physical fitness training, followed by 10-12 hours of classroom and/or practical exercise instruction. The academy will be hard work but successful participants will be immersed in a skill-building experience that will provide future employment opportunities in wildland firefighting.

Academy applications and contact information can be found at <http://forestry.alaska.gov>. Look for the red tabs at the bottom of the page under Wildland Fire & Aviation Program.

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