

Washington Helitack

Employment

Note: Information on the page is subject to change.

Helitack Employment Opportunities

Each year a variety of positions are available with the Helitack program from approximately June 1st - September 15th (some positions are of longer duration). Applications are available in January of each year. The deadline for application submission is March 31st. We are looking for highly motivated individuals who work and communicate well with others, and who are willing and able to work on uneven terrain often under arduous work and extreme weather conditions. Helitack is a fast paced, complex environment and demands people that can think quickly, decisively, and creatively to process information and make clear decisions during intense situations to solve problems and mitigate hazards for maximum safety.

Work Capacity Test

For most Helitack positions, employment is contingent upon passing a Work Capacity Test at the demanding level. The Work Capacity Test at the arduous level consists of completing a walking course of three miles with a 45 pound pack within 45 minutes. Pre-training/preparing for the work capacity test is recommended.

Crew Structure

		Crew Supervisor 2		
	Crew Supervisor 1	Crew Supervisor 1	Crew Supervisor 1	
	NRW2 HELB	NRW2 HELB	NRW2 DRIVER A	
	NRW2 HELB	NRW2 HELB	NRW2 DRIVER A	
			NRW2 DRIVER A	
	NRW2 SQUAD	NRW2 SQUAD	NRW2 DRIVER A	
		NRW2 SQUAD	NRW2 DRIVER A	
			NRW2 DRIVER A	
	FF/HECM	FF/HECM	NRW2 DRIVER B	
	FF/HECM	FF/HECM	NRW2 DRIVER B	
	FF/HECM	FF/HECM	NRW2 DRIVER B	
	FF/HECM	FF/HECM		
	FF/HECM			

Position: Crew Supervisor 1

Job Description: Schedule and direct crew activities and assignments around the compound and at fires. Ensure that all Helitack equipment is in proper working order. Facilitate interviewing and hiring of crew members. Complete written mid-season and end of season evaluations for each crew member. Supervise crew training stressing safety and proficiency in all activities. Coordinate the training of agency and interagency personnel in helicopter operations as well as conducting weekly crew training updates and safety meetings. When dispatched to a fire, obtain dispatch information and keep the pilot, crew, and support truck advised of fire and aircraft status. While at each fire, coordinate all helicopter and

fire operations with incident commander and air operations personnel. Arrange transportation, meals, and accommodation for crew and pilots. Ensure that Time and Activity Reports (TARS), fire reports, and helibase forms, are submitted complete and on time. Desired qualifications for a Crew Supervisor 1 are: Helicopter Manager (HELB), Helibase Manager (HEB2), Squad Boss (FFT1), and IC Type 4 (ICT4) rated.

Pay rate: \$12.37 - \$15.59 per hour

Position: NRWII Heli-Boss

Job Description: Lead a crew of up to four firefighters on initial attack dispatch. When dispatched to a fire, obtain dispatch information and advise the pilot, crew and support truck of fire and aircraft status. While at each fire, coordinate all helicopter and fire operations with incident commander and air operations personnel. Arrange transportation, meals, and accommodations for crew and pilots. Ensure that all helicopter equipment is in proper working order and capable for immediate use. Assist with the coordination of work activities and training at compound. Ensure that Time and Activity Reports (TARS), fire reports, and helibase forms, are submitted complete and on time. NRWIIIs will be trained and certified as Helicopter Manager (HELB), Squad Boss (FFT1), and IC Type 4 (ICT4).

Pay rate: \$11.80 - \$14.87 per hour

Position: NRWII Squad Boss

Job Description: Lead a crew of four firefighters on fireline operations. Initiate and maintain open lines of communication between supervisors and firefighters. Make informed decisions and apply LCES (Lookouts, Communication, Escape Routes, Safety Zones) to fire line tactics. Assist helicopter managers with proper fire situation size up and application of appropriate tactics. Account for readiness of all crewmembers and equipment. Support supervisors and fill work assignments as needed. Help facilitate activities and training at the compound. Must be HECM qualified and squad boss (FFT1) certified.

Pay rate: \$11.80 - \$14.87 per hour

Position: NRWII Support Truck Driver

Job Description: Must possess a valid driver's license free of major restrictions and have the ability to pass a Class B CDL endorsement including: tank, haz-mat, and air brakes. Ensure that support trucks are in proper mechanical working order by conducting daily, weekly, and monthly operators check and pre/post trip inspections. Maintain the support trucks in a constant state of fire readiness (fully stocked, long line, remote hooks, pumps, etc.). When dispatched, map route to the fire and locate safe and effective helicopter re-fueling sites. Maintain constant communications and positive radio contact with various dispatch centers, helicopter, and crew. Provide for the security of fuel truck on the road, in the compound, and during fire fighting activities. Maintain accurate records on mileage, fuel quantity, and driver duty hours. Helicopter crewmember training (HECM) will be provided for those not previously carded.

Pay rate: \$11.80 - \$14.87 per hour

Position: Firefighter/Helicopter Crewmember

Job Description: Ability to work safely and effectively with crew members and other DNR personnel. Complete Helitack training program and participate in proficiency trainings throughout the season. Maintain individual fire equipment and clothing. Assist with the pre-flight each day and maintain helicopter in a constant state of readiness. Clean helicopters as needed. Assist department mechanics during maintenance. While on fires, construct and maintain helispots, assist with calling drops when needed, perform passenger loading and unloading, maintain porta-tanks, construct fire line, assist with cargo transport, and all other initial attack duties needed to suppress fire. Firefighter/Helicopter

Crewmembers are trained and certified as Fire fighter II (FFT2) and Helicopter Crewmember (HECM). Previous qualification is desired. Pay rate: \$8.81 - \$10.08 per hour

Position: Rotorcraft (Pilot 2)

Job Description: Pilot a helicopter over hazardous terrain at low altitudes for such purposes as aerial reconnaissance, fire patrol, supply drops, water drops, and crew transport. Work with a Helitack firefighting crew that responds to wildland fires throughout Washington State. Select operating location and best approach to drop zone. Make retardant drops on fire and coordinate with ground personnel to ensure maximum effectiveness of drops. Plan flights, obtain clearances, and file flight plans with Federal Aviation Agency as required. Transport fire crews, equipment, and hazardous materials to unprepared and confined landing sites. Use cargo nets and long lines to sling equipment to fire crews. Deliver high gross weight water loads to porta-tanks for the use by fire crews. Provide aerial ambulance service as required. Maintain flight and engine logs of aircraft flight time, make prescribed inspections, and perform necessary routine maintenance and repair to aircraft, support equipment, and engines under qualified supervision. Complete records of aircraft movements and work performed for all agencies and prepare reports of flying activities.

Minimum qualifications: 1,500 hours of Pilot-In-Command (PIC) time in turbine engine powered helicopters, including field operations with sling loads. A current, valid Federal Aviation Agency Commercial Certificate is required with Rotorcraft rating and a current Class II flight physical. Fire experience and long line currency are both highly desired.
Pay rate: \$4,016 - \$4,152 per month

Apply

To request an application for a Helitack position contact the Southeast Region DNR headquarters in Ellensburg at: 509-925-8510