

Columbus Fire Rescue

Position Description

April 2026

Position: Full-time Seasonal Crew Member – 6 Month Employment Guaranteed with potential for extension depending on season

Department: Fire Department Fuels Crew

Position Summary:

This is a full time, seasonal position to remove hazardous vegetation around homes and off the landscape to create defensible space in the case of wildland fires. This position requires individuals to work as a team while performing manual labor, including using chainsaws, weed eaters, chippers, and hand piling and moving brush and trees. This position also requires being able to work around heavy equipment occasionally. Crew members may be requested to respond to local and national wildland fires and other emergencies with a request from the On Duty Chief or officer. There will be times when this position involves station staffing and assistance in the 911 system.

Position Duties:

- Cutting, piling, and chipping of trees and brush.
- Maintenance of crew and department equipment.
- Operate apparatus and equipment according to department policies.
- Station duties, cleaning, and upkeep.
- Assist duty crew when requested.
- Staffing of station (911)
- Assist with responding to local and national wildland fire incidents and staffing.
- Other duties as assigned.

Position Functions

This position will require personnel to sometimes work outside in extreme heat/cold. Hazards are frequent during day-to-day operations. Frequent use of power tools such as chainsaws, weed eaters, tree chippers, and hand tools including axes, Pulaski's, shovels, and rakes to create defensible space and fuel breaks. This position will also be exposed to periods of excessive noise during certain operations. Personnel can be dispatched to wildland fire incidents for up to 14 to 21 days at a time within the United States, so being prepared for extended time away from family and normal amenities. During these extended wildland fire operations, personnel may be asked to camp outside for multiple nights. This position also requires members to assist with crew and department equipment and apparatus maintenance. Personnel will also be expected to help maintain stations and assist with station clean-up and other projects and tasks around department facilities. Personnel may also be asked to help supplement staffing for duty crew, and other extended operations.

Position Requirements

- Physically capable of hard manual labor in hazardous and extreme conditions for long periods
- Knowledge of power tools as well as hand tools
- Being a self-starter as well as a team player
- Knowledge and skills in wildland fire operations, as well as fuels reduction in the wildland-urban interface
- Must be 18 years of age or older
- Knowledge of working around hazard trees, tree felling operations, and heavy equipment operations

Position Qualifications

These are not required, but highly recommended qualifications.

- ICS-100, Introduction to Incident Command Systems (ICS)
- L-180, Human Factors in the Wildland Fire Service
- S-130, Firefighter Training
- S-190, Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior
- S-212, Wildland Fire Chainsaws
- NREMT/MT EMT-B

Salary Range

- \$20.00-\$25.00/hr DOE

Work Hours

Generally, Monday to Thursday 0700-1730, but the district may vary hours and days of the week to meet its needs best. The fuels crew is utilized as part of our wildland fire contract crew. Crews may be requested to respond to a wildland incident in the district, locally as well as nationally. Fuels crew personnel will be ready to respond to such requests in a reasonable amount of time. Hours during deployment on wildland fires will vary, with opportunities for overtime during deployments. In some instances, fuels crew personnel will respond to emergencies in the district upon the request from an officer/chief officer for staffing purposes.

Benefits

The district provides no health benefits for seasonal employees other than workers' compensation. The district will offer MT PERS retirement for crew members.

Supervision

This position will have direct supervision from the Fuels Crew Manager, the Assistant Manager, and a Squad Boss and/or Engine Boss.