

# VA urges veterans to sign up for direct deposits for safety, convenience

## Treasury publishes final regulation to phase out paper checks by 2013; VA says changes should be made soon

WASHINGTON – The Department of the Treasury announced a new rule in December that will extend the safety and convenience of electronic payments to millions of Americans and phase out paper checks for federal benefits by March 1, 2013.

Officials at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) urge veterans to sign up for electronic payment of their benefits.

“Receiving VA benefits electronically will increase the security, convenience

and reliability of these vital payments,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. “VA encourages veterans who are now receiving their benefits in paper checks to set up direct deposits before the deadline.”

On March 1, 2013, VA will stop issuing paper checks. People who do not have electronic payments for their federal benefits by that time will receive their funds via a pre-paid debit card. Called the Direct Express card, it is issued by

Comerica Bank as the financial agent of the U.S. Treasury.

Another deadline affects people receiving VA’s compensation or pensions for the first time after May 1, 2011. Those people automatically will receive the benefits electronically.

Anyone already receiving federal benefit payments electronically will be unaffected by the changes.

To learn more about the federal government’s switch to direct deposit – or to

change VA benefits to direct deposit – visit [www.GoDirect.org](http://www.GoDirect.org). Information about the federal government’s “Go Direct” campaign also is available at 800-333-1795.

Along with payments for VA benefits, the change also will affect recipients of payments from Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, Railroad Retirement Board and Office of Personnel Management.

For more information about VA benefits and programs, go to [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) or call toll-free 800-827-1000.

## Applications for OCF scholarships for American Indian students due March 1

The Oregon Community Foundation annually awards \$6 million in scholarships and reaches 2,400 Oregon students through its statewide scholarship program. Two of these scholarship programs are targeted specifically to American Indian students.

### Verl and Dorothy Miller Native American Scholarship

Eligible students include American Indian residents of Oregon attending or planning to attend an accredited trade or vocational school or community college

in Oregon. Students must be planning to pursue a career in the technical or vocational fields. The awards are for \$1,500 to \$3,000 per year. Students can apply and compete for the scholarship for up to four years.

### Howard Vollum American Indian Scholarship

Eligible students include American Indian residents of Clackamas, Multnomah, Washington and Clark counties seeking post-secondary education or training in science, technology, engineer-

ing or mathematics. The awards are for \$3,000 per year for up to five years of undergraduate study and two years of graduate study.

### Criteria for both scholarships

- Participation in school or community activities
- Personal accomplishments or achievements
- Preference given to students who have a demonstrated commitment to and involvement in the American Indian community

- Open to students with a certification of Tribal enrollment or descendants of enrolled members
- Students can apply at any point during their post-secondary career

How to apply: Applications and instructions are available on the OCF website at [www.oregoncf.org/receive/scholarships/scholarship-opportunities](http://www.oregoncf.org/receive/scholarships/scholarship-opportunities).

Deadline: Scholarship applications are due March 1 for the next academic year.

For more scholarship opportunities, please check [www.getcollegefunds.org](http://www.getcollegefunds.org).

## Fire Fighting Jobs Available in McKenzie River Area

The McKenzie River Initial Attack Hand Crew may have up to five crew member positions open at the GS-03 (\$11.95) or GS-04 (\$13.41) level and up to one GS-05 (\$15). Referral lists from AVUE will be pulled starting Feb. 1. Housing is available and runs about \$60 per pay period.

These positions are being advertised under the Open Continuous Announcements listed below.

Please put your application into AVUE as soon as possible for consideration.

If interested, please e-mail or hard-copy mail a résumé to one of the contacts listed above. Applicants should make an attempt to schedule a face-to-face introduction if possible.

Apply online at [www.avuedigital-services.com](http://www.avuedigital-services.com) and then search for the announcement number(s) listed below.

Please select McKenzie Bridge, Oregon, as a location you wish to apply for.

- To qualify for a GS-3 position, you must have graduated high school or equivalent.
- To qualify for a GS-4 position, you must have six months of wildland firefighter experience at the GS-03 level or equivalent.
- To qualify for a GS-5 position, you must have 12 months as GS-4, be qualified as a Firefighter Type 1 and have an S-290 (Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior) certificate. You must attach a copy of your IQCS master record to your application to document your qualifications and classes. This requirement is because of IFPM (Interagency Fire Program

Management) qualification standards effective Oct. 1, 2010.

### For more information on IFPM standards:

[www.fs.fed.us/fire/management/ifpm/crosswalk.pdf](http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/management/ifpm/crosswalk.pdf)

WORK CAPACITY TEST (WCT) for wildland firefighters: This position participates in wildland firefighting activities. Based on the type of work performed, taking and passing the Work Capacity Test at the arduous level is a condition of employment. The arduous fitness (WCT) test consists of a three-mile hike within 45 minutes while carrying a 45-pound pack. You are strongly encouraged to begin training immediately if you are applying for this position.



**USDA Forest Service,  
Pacific Northwest  
Region (R-6)**

**Willamette National  
Forest McKenzie River  
Ranger District**

**McKenzie River Ranger District  
57600 McKenzie Highway  
McKenzie Bridge, OR 97413**

### Positions Available

Series	Specialty	Grade	Announcement Number	Contact
0462 0462	Forestry Aid Forestry Tech. (Handcrew)	GS-3 GS-4 GS-5	OCRT-462-3-FIRE-DT OCRT-462-4-HANDCREW-DT OCRT-462-5-HANDCREW-DT TEMP-OCR-462-5-HANDCREW	Nick Beddow, Crew Supervisor, <a href="mailto:nbeddow@fs.fed.us">nbeddow@fs.fed.us</a> or 541-822-7249 Quinlan Anderson, Foreman <a href="mailto:qanderson@fs.fed.us">qanderson@fs.fed.us</a> or 541-822-7277