

Missoula Fire, Science and Technology Forest Service Campus Tour

- 1) **MISSOULA SMOKEJUMPER CENTER**
- 2) **ROCKY MOUNTAIN RESEARCH FIRE SCIENCES LABORATORY**
- 3) **NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM/CENTER**

All three facilities are within a ten-minute walk of each other. Tours will be one hour in length with a 15-minute break between tours so participants may make their next scheduled tour.

60 visitors can be accommodated for this event.

Tour start times will be:

- 1) 10:00 am,
- 2) 11:30 am,
- 3) 1:00 pm

Smokejumper Excursion:

Region One has hosted smokejumpers since the program started in 1940. The first training base was at Seeley Lake, using a previous CCC site adjacent to the Ranger Station and the Seeley Lake Airport about five miles to the north. After 1940, additional sites for training included Nine Mile, Camp Menard, and Hale Field (present site of the fairgrounds). In 1952 Congress authorized \$700,000 for the construction of an Aerial Fire Depot in Missoula. It became home to the Region's smokejumper program when President Dwight D. Eisenhower dedicated the facility in September 1954.



The Smokejumper excursion/tour includes a stop at the Visitor Information Center for a briefing and viewing of smokejumper equipment. From there, a tour through the Aerial Fire Depot by a veteran smokejumper will include the equipment construction and repair facility, parachute tower, rigging room, ready room, dispatch center, the cargo room, and the airplane.

Rocky Mountain Research Station Fire Sciences Laboratory (Firelab)

The Missoula Firelab is the preeminent fire research facility in the world. It was established in the aftermath of the Mann Gulch Fire. The Firelab's original focus of developing a greater understanding of wildland fire and using the best technology available to get that knowledge into the hands of fire managers continues to be the



way of life for researchers. Over the years since its founding, the Firelab's facility has expanded to include numerous research resources including; a wind tunnel, combustion chamber and emissions lab, ecophysiology, tree ring and fuels lab as well as soils, metals, welding, electronics and instrumentation facilities.

National Technology and Development Program (NTDP):

The NTDP evaluates problems and creates solutions across all Deputy Chief areas, helping to make the agency and its employees safer and more efficient. During the 1940s, the Forest Service established the San Dimas Technology and Development Center and the Missoula Technology and Development Center to repurpose WWII equipment and develop smokejumper parachutes and accessories. Throughout the years, the two centers collaborated as the scope of work expanded to include projects across the agency and, eventually, to other agencies within the Federal Government. The two centers officially merged into a single program during 2016. NTDP has 76 employees with a wide range of skills and disciplines, some rare or even unique to the agency. Facilities and programs are critical for developing and testing equipment specifications and for supporting other land management programs.

