POSITION EVALUATION STATEMENT

Proposed Title, Series, Grade: Wildland Firefighter (Aviation), GS-0456-05

Position Number: DX05600

Background: This Standard Position Description (SPD) was developed by an Advisory Work Group made up of a team of fire subject matter expert and classification specialist and is representative of fire planning work performed. The major duties listed in the SPD were identified through a thorough analysis of the 0456 Wildland Firefighter standard.

References: Position Classification Standard for Wildland Fire Management, 0456, June 2022.

Series & Title Determination: The 0456 Wildland Fire Management series is a single-grade interval series that includes classes of position which involve technical and specialized work on the protection of forest or range lands and resources from fire. This series includes general fire management work which is preparatory to the assumption of technical or specialized assignments, and which is accomplished as a part of specialized functional fire management programs including forest, and range fire prevention, presuppession, suppression, post-suppression, fire research, and other specialized work relating to fire management programs.

The PCS is divided into three parts. Part I contains occupational information applicable to Federal work covered by the PCS without regard to pay plan or classification system. Part II provides the grading criteria for positions classified in accordance with GS grade definitions. Part II- Grading Information, is further broken down into *Part 1* (grade level criteria for Wildland Firefighting Positions), and *Part II* (grade level criteria for Fire Mangement Officer Positions). Part III includes explanatory material about the developement of the PCS.

This is an agency Standardized Position Description (SPD) and serves as a Wildland Firefighter (Aviation) organizationally located within a wildland fire management program within one of the four bureaus of the Department of the Interior.

The primary purpose of the position is to coordinate and provide ground service and support operations for wildland fire fixed wing aviation resources to provide safe, timely, and effective delivery of retardant and fixed wing aircraft services to fire personnel.

The basic title for positions that involve technical and specialized work on the protection of forest or range lands is *Wildland Firefighter*. The prescribed a parenthetical title of *Aviation* will also be applied, which describes work involves performing wildfire related work involving operating and maintaining unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), mixing, and loading of aerial fire retardant to fixed wing aircraft, coordinating and monitoring parking of aircraft and base operations, coordinating incident airspace, managing incident air traffic while coordinating with ground resources engaged in wildland fire suppression and prescribed fire activities. Therefore, this position is appropriately assigned to the 0456 series and titled as a ***Wildland Firefighter (Aviation).***

Grade Determination: The 0456 PCS is written in a narrative format describing the Nature of Work and Level of Responsibility for each grade covered by the standard. The classification factors include: (1) guidelines; (2) complexity; (3) personal contacts/purpose of contacts; and (4) supervision received. Part I, Fire Management Position Illustrations of the PCS (under Part II, Grading Information) provides illustrative grade level criteria for nonsupervisory positions in grades GS-3/4/5/6/7, 9, and 11. The grade level information provides a summary of the grade level, followed by specific illustrations of duties and responsibilities characteristic of the grade described loosely in terms of the classification factors identified above. Illustrations vary by grade level and may be described in in terms of specialty areas such as Aviation, Fuels.

Nature of Work

GS-05 Wildland Firefighters in the aviation specialty usually are responsible for ensuring that safety regulations are followed and that contract pilots fly prescribed routes at designated altitudes; are in charge of the flight (except for the actual operation of the plane); and change routes or altitudes within safety limits to provide complete aerial coverage. They ensure that contract planes have been properly inspected and approved by the agency, that safety and other prescribed equipment is on board, and that unauthorized personnel are not transported by planes. At the GS-05 level, aviation related duties include keeping maps and records; making reports; participating in prevention, presuppression, or other fire management work; recommending changes in aerial routes to provide better and more effective coverage; obtaining daily weather and fire information from districts; compiling weather and fire reports.

Like the GS-05 the incumbent is responsible for ensuring safety of airtanker operations and performs as functional leader in various aviation, ground support, and logistical activities related to airtanker and retardant base operations and all other fixed wing operations that may be used at designated base. This may include set up and teardown of airbase operations, maintaining, repairing and operating batch mixers, blenders, tanks, and related components including pumps, valves, and hoses. Ensures National long-term fire retardant or wildland fire chemicals meet lot acceptance and quality control standards, and contract specifications utilizing refractometer, marsh funnel and/or other scientific equipment such as Micro-Motion Meters or other types of flow meters and liquid measurement. Also ensures airtanker/SEAT aircraft do not exceed aircraft capabilities and limitations. Ensures airtanker base ramp operations are conducted in a safe and efficient manner, monitors critical turning radius for wing clearances to maintain safe operating distances from facilities, other aircraft and personnel as needed for different types and sizes of aircraft on the air base facility. Identifies days off and/or maintenance parking areas. Provides, as needed, operational briefings, safety briefings, After Action Review's (AAR's), and evaluations for assigned personnel. Provides training opportunities and oversight for trainees at the base of operations. Provides hazard identification and on the spot correction of safety issues. Coordinates with base manager to prepare and execute repair, ongoing maintenance, and improvement projects to ensure that operational requirements and all agency and regulatory standards are consistently met for ramp operations. The GS-05 is fully met.

Level of Responsibility

At the GS-05 Wildland Firefighters at this level work under a supervisor who provides general work assignments and instructions. Supervisors furnish advice, assistance, and help on unusual work problems that occur, make special work assignments, and periodically review the incumbents' work for adequacy and compliance with instructions. At the GS-05 level personal work contacts include extensive and varied person-to-person work contacts such as with personnel and officials of State and local governments, cooperators, and the general public. The purpose of contacts is to plan, coordinate, or advise on work efforts or to resolve operating problems by influencing those who are working toward mutual goals.

Like the GS-05 the supervisor provides deadlines, priorities, and advice or additional specific instructions for difficult, new, or special assignments to include work methods. The incumbent refers specific problems not covered by the supervisor's instructions or standard operating procedures to the supervisor or designated employee for assistance and/or a decision. The supervisor or designated employee reviews work to verify accuracy and conformance to procedures and any special instructions. Work is periodically reviewed for adherence to approved plans, schedules, and practices, and spot-check the correctness of decisions made and actions taken. Like the GS-05 contacts are initiated and maintained at the local, State/Regional, and National level with multiagency aviation managers and officers, contractor's representatives, multiagency dispatchers, fire management personnel, other federal, state, and local officials, cooperators, airport authorities, media, vendors, and the general public. Like the GS-05 the purpose of personal contacts is to plan and coordinate work efforts and operations; to provide aviation services and support; to administer contracts and agreements; to provide and direct training; and to obtain or provide technical assistance and direction. The GS-05 is fully met.

FINAL CLASSIFICATION: Both Nature of Work and Level of Responsibility are evaluated at the GS-05 level; therefore, the position is properly classified as ***Wildland Firefighter (Aviation), GS-0456-05.***