DOI Standard PD
PD#DX01000
Classification: Wildland Firefighter (Fire Management Planning), GS-0456-07

INTRODUCTION

This position is an agency Standardized Position Description (SPD) and serves as a Wildland Firefighter (Fire Management Planning), in a wildland fire management program within one of the four bureaus of the Department of the Interior (Department) in the Field/Local environmental-setting and may be assigned work within interagency fire community.

The position's primary purpose is to perform, under general supervision, special technical work and develop wildland fire management program plans that reflect national, regional, state, and local goals and objectives of wildland fire and aviation management. This SPD will be utilized as a stand-alone GS-07 position and a GS-07 target-SPD for higher graded work environments, at the GS-08, GS-09, and/or GS-11 Full Performance Level (FPL). At the GS-07 level, the fire management and incident major duty assignments performed by the incumbent are designed to increase expertise in performance of the followings: fire preparedness, fuels management, prevention, fire suppression, monitoring, and/or post-fire activities and operations.

MAJOR DUTIES

Wildland Fire Planning (60%)

Participates in on-the-ground inspections and visits field units related to fire management for the purposes of training and instruction in fire management planning. These fire management plans reflect national, regional, state, and local management goals and objectives related to fire management.

Participates in the development of fire plans and consideration of fire management alternatives under the direction of higher-graded fire planners and/or specialists.

Applies technical fire planning knowledge to resolve routine fire planning problems and learns how to analyze and resolve unique problems relating to local fire management issues. Contributes to the delivery of specialized guidance, leadership, coordination, and technical assistance for managing and applying wildland fire planning processes and procedures.

Coordinates fire planning activities with environmental or natural resource specialists to ensure fire management plans are consistent with land and resource management plans (L/RMPs), laws, policies, regulations, and environmental mandates (e.g., National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Clean Air Act, National Historic Preservation Act, Wilderness Act, etc.); ensures actions and objectives are outline within fire management plans and meet overall objectives in land and/or resources management plans; when units have protected habitat under the Endangered Species Act which may be impacted by high intensity fires, incumbent in this

position ensures areas are identified for low intensity fire and/or other management actions align with resource management plans.

Collaborates with unit interdisciplinary teams in obtaining information for developing and updating fire management plans (FMPs) at the local, regional, and state levels, including fuels management activities that reduce the threat of wildfire. Solicits information from staff members and sub-units that address short-term fire management planning needs.

Conducts geospatial and strategic fire planning analyses and coordinates information technology into strategic fire management plans. Promotes the integration of fire management topics into local land management plans (L/RMPs) for the purpose of public safety.

Recommends technical advice for inclusion into newly established fire planning-related agreements between local fire programs and cooperating agencies and organizations; share in strategic workgroups with other fire planners and specialist and develop wildland fire project goals and objectives; and modify existing wildland fire management plan components (e.g., fuels treatments, smoke management, preparedness plans, fire danger planning, etc.).

Met and negotiate with partnering agencies and/or organizations to ensure most efficient and consistency in processes, strategy decisions, documentation, and evaluations. Maintains open communication with interagency partners and other agency personnel involved in the fire planning process.

Closely network with all land management organizations, both for response to unplanned wildland fires and planned projects, to ensure readiness in cases of wildland fires move across jurisdictional boundaries; partners with federal wildland fire bureaus (US Forestry Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife) along with several other federal agencies that have land ownership, i.e., Department of Defense, Department of Energy, Bureau of Reclamation; also partners with State, local, tribal, private landowners and Non-Government Office (Nature Conservancy). Accounts for the accuracy and timely transfer of wildland fire planning records for fire management officers, land, or resource management staff, fire planners, and other specialists within a fire program.

Analyzes and accounts for accuracy of data and review of fire hazard risk, fuels, historic fire occurrence, fire effects, climatology, and/or weather-related data and advises and interprets data when educating others on the importance and purposes of quality data integrity for historical fire occurrences, fire causes, fire effects, climatology, and weather-related documentations.

Transmits local planning information/ data for inclusion in state, regional, and/or national plans, projects, and analytical studies in fire and aviation management and coordinates the collection, review, retention, and appropriate record-keeping documents related to fire management.

Wildland Fire Technical Consultation (40%)

Recommends technical input for inclusion into implemented fire management plans and supporting plans (e.g., prescribed fire, fire danger or prevention plans) and applications (e.g., decision support tools, and/or wildland fire reporting)

Delivers technical support to fire management officers, land, or resource management personnel within the scope of a fire management plan.

Provides input in local fire planning analysis systems, models, and decision support systems. Responds to routine data requests from internal and external sources.

Utilizes specialized software and modeling programs to analyze fire management strategies, in consultation with higher level fire planners. Provides input in the use of established wildland fire decision support tools.

Receives training in the use of the National Fire Danger Rating System to assist with data collection and evaluation of fire hazard, fire danger, fuels, historic fire occurrence, fire effects, climatology, and weather conditions.

Implements specially assigned analytical tools for usage of local interagency fire management planning.

Meets and deals with environmental or natural resource specialists to ensure wildland fire developed policies are incorporated in L/RMPs and NEPA decisions.

Assesses the applicability of decision support tools to fire management issues and develops procedures for incorporation into unit management plans. Applies the latest technological developments to inform fire management concerns related to the development, execution, and monitoring of local fire management issues.

Participates in geospatial and strategic fire planning analyses. Coordinates and supports the use of geospatial information technology in strategic fire management planning. Advocates the integration of fire management topics into unit L/RMPs.

Performs other duties as assigned.

FACTORS

Guidelines

General guidance can be found in agency and bureau published directives such as: wildland fire/fuels operations manuals, safety regulations, handbooks, and guides. Specific guidance is also contained in the prescribed fire and fuels treatment plans, risk assessments, natural and cultural resource plans, interagency agreements, and memorandums of understanding.

The supervisor or higher-graded position will discuss the interpretation and application of applicable legislation, interagency policies until the incumbent demonstrates the competency to

independently interpret and make minor to moderate deviations to guidelines that are not directly applicable to the assignments. Significant deviations will require the supervisor's attention.

Complexity
Assignments involve applying a broad range of wildfire fire management planning actions to address recurring issues related to human caused wildfire occurrence problems. The technical duties of fire investigations involve examining the cause and determining the origin of a wildfire using scientific methodology including observing, collecting, and preserving and/or examining evidence in a multijurisdictional environment. The employee must determine the best course of action to effectively communicate and educate a broad range of internal and external audiences. Incumbent must also stay abreast of fire causation trends and their implications to the prevention program. Ability to navigate multiple messaging platforms effectively is required. Interaction with field/unit/tribal level is essential to the success of the program and often requires coordination with, but not limited to, federal, state, tribal, and local government leadership, program managers.

Personal Contacts
Contacts include those with the field units; other federal, tribal, and state agencies throughout the geographic area. Daily contacts may include field personnel, regional/state office personnel, research scientists, private landowners, other bureau personnel, and the public. The incumbent maintains regular personal contact with professionals and scientists involved in fire management from Federal, Tribal, State, and local agencies, universities, and professional societies. Contacts are performed as presentations, interviews, informal exchanges, written reports, and correspondence.

Purpose of Contacts
Contacts are for the purpose of coordinating and collaborating with various organizations and individuals. Contacts are made for determining user needs, explaining proposed actions, gathering data and intelligence, and/or exchanging information.

Supervisory Controls
Supervisors outline program objectives, assign special studies to be undertaken, and approve annual work plans segmented by month or quarter, which establish duties and functions, work assignments, and operating policies and procedures related to planning requirements and policy compliance. Supervisors furnish help and technical assistance on difficult or unusual problems such as special-use problems, law enforcement action, cancellation of permits, or extremely hazardous conditions present in industrial operations. Their work is reviewed periodically for overall adequacy, compliance with operating policies and procedures, and effective accomplishment of broad program objectives.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT FACTS

This is an administrative position in an organization having a firefighting mission and is in an established career path. Prior firefighting experience, as gained by substantial service in a primary firefighter position or equivalent experience outside the Federal Government is a MANDATORY PREREQUISITE for incumbents of this position.

Physical Demands: The work is primarily sedentary, although a level of physical fitness is required which will allow for work during periods of extended stress and in the field when wildland fire situations arise. During the fire season, extended fire assignments away from the unit may be required under very stressful conditions.

Work Environment: Although work is generally performed in an office setting. Field work involves exposure to temperature extremes, both from weather and fire conditions where falling trees and the presence of smoke and/or dust conditions create hazardous conditions. The nature of fire investigation work requires that protective clothing (boots, hard hats, etc.) be worn. The incumbent must exercise a variety of safety practices and precautions for the well-being of self and of others.

Position requires a valid state driver's license to operate light vehicles and 4x4 vehicles. May require additional specialized training and certification to operate specialized vehicles and equipment.