DOI Standard PD
PD#DX01200
Classification: Wildland Firefighter (Fire Management Planning), GS-0456-09

INTRODUCTION

This 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 four bureaus of the Department of the Interior (Department) in the Field/Local environmental-setting, interagency programs.

The position's primary purpose is to perform very difficult work assignments on specialized technical lines and develop wildland fire management program plans that reflect national, regional, state, and local management goals, requirements, and strategic objectives of wildland fire and aviation management. This SPD can be utilized to fill permanent GS-09 level positions, or it may be used to fill GS-09 target GS-11 full performance level positions. The position executes fire management activities in fire preparedness, fuels management and prevention, fire suppression, monitoring, and/or post-fire and participates on fire management and incident assignments to increase expertise in subject areas, fire preparedness, fuels management, prevention, fire suppression, monitoring, and/or post-fire, and overall wildland fire management planning.

The incumbent operates with considerable latitude to independently identify, analyze (evaluate various conditions and elements) and recommends appropriate fire management planning decisions while performing a substantial range of complex fire management projects and assignments.

MAJOR DUTIES

Wildland Fire Planning (60%)

This position develops field/local wildland plans and fire management alternatives in environmental settings that reflect national, regional, state, and local management goals and objectives related to fire management. Evaluates the adequacy and effectiveness of fire management programs through periodic on-the-ground inspections or visits to field units.

Provides skilled decision-making recommendations on short and long-term strategic fire management planning, assessments, and interagency unit fire management plans.

Applies advanced knowledge and judgment on wildland fire planning processes and procedures of a difficult level. Applies technical fire planning knowledge to analyze and resolve complex problems relating to the development, execution, and monitoring of field/local fire management issues by developing and implementing alternatives to meet the fire management social or political objectives and monitoring the effects of long-term droughts and changes in climate to analyze long-term fire related impacts on the environment.

Coordinates with the environmental or natural resource specialists to ensure local wildland 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 (example, when a unit has protected habitat under the Endangered Species Act that could be impacted by high intensity fires, this position ensure those areas are identified for low intensity fire or other management action aligns with resource management plans).

Exercises sound independent judgment and decision making on technical information requirements; develops plans for assigned fire management plans for field/local and state and collaborates with fire management staff to ensure overall sound preparedness of short and long-term fire management planning prior to taking initiatives for implementation.

Conducts geospatial and strategic fire planning analyses and implements for use and support of geospatial information technology strategic fire management planning. Advocates the integration of fire management topics into unit land and resource management plans (L/RMPs).

Develops and implements fire planning agreements between field/local and adjacent programs, (i.e., Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, USFS, and others as well as partnering agencies and organizations, local government, state government and non-governmental entities); and provides technical advisory guidance on coordinating and establishing new agreements.

Provides input on wildland fire project goals and objectives and provides technical advice on newly proposed and existing wildland fire management projects. (e.g., fuels treatments, smoke management, preparedness plans, and fire danger planning related requirements. The position also establishes nexus between L/RMPs, fire plans, and ensures fire policy consistency between firefighter and public safety.

Collaborates with partner agencies and/or organizations on process, decisions, documentation, and analysis. Maintains open communication with interagency partners and other agency personnel involved in the fire planning process. As wildland fires move across jurisdictional boundaries it is in the best interest of fire programs to collaborate with all the other land management organizations around them, both for response to unplanned wildfires and for planned projects. The partners include all the 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. Partners also include State, local, tribal, private landowners and may include some NGOs (Nature Conservancy).

Maintains wildland fire planning records management system and advise fire management officers, land, resources, and other staff specialists to ensure accuracy and timeliness in support of fire post-suppression requirements.

Conducts periodic reviews of fire planning data to analyze fire hazards and fuels risks, historical fire occurrence statistics, fire causes, effects, climatology, and weather-related data to report on adequacy, accuracy, and appropriateness in operations.

Consolidates unit planning information/data for inclusion in state, regional, and/or national plans, projects, and conducts analytical studies in fire and aviation management.

Coordinates the collection, review, retention, and appropriate record-keeping for documents related to fire management.

Wildland Fire Technical Consultation (40%)
As Technical Advisor, provide guidance to staff members on new and advanced technological tools in fire management programs and facilitate training courses on systems usage and advanced features (systems include Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS), Interagency Fuels Treatment Decision Support System (IFTDSS), Enterprise Geospatial Portal (EGP), National Fuels Program Reporting System (NFPORS).

Provides technical support to fire management officers, land or resource management personnel, and planners throughout the fire program assigned.

Provides input for short-and-long-term strategic fire management planning, assessments, and interagency and/or unit fire management.

Provide technical advice for coordinating and integrating fire management topics, issues, and solutions into non-fire program plans.

Provides technical advice to field units on data collection and evaluation of fire hazard, fuels, historic fire occurrence, fire cause, fire effects, climatology, and weather conditions.

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

Provides technical advice in the use of the National Fire Danger Rating System.

Provides advice to local/Field fire planning analysis systems, models, and decision support systems, statistical data based on long range cycles that accurately reflect the overall scope and complexity of the fire management programs; and utilizes specialized software and modeling programs to evaluate the effectiveness of fire management strategies to meet L/RMP goals and objectives.

Provides technical guidance on analytical tools available in support of fire and aviation management for field/local interagency fire management planning; and analyzes plans and make decisions on appropriate enhancement options to ensure mission success.

Provides technical guidance on analytical tools available in support of fire and aviation management for field/local interagency fire management planning; and analyzes plans and make decisions on appropriate enhancement options to ensure mission success.

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.

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.

Due to the range and complexity of the duties assigned, the available guidelines may not be completely applicable to the work and/or have gaps in specificity. This requires that the incumbent use initiative and judgment to analyze and evaluate the available guidelines and recommend modifications, alterations, and/or adjustments to meet fire program planning needs. Since guidelines are issued at multiple levels by multiple organizations, conflicts must be resolved by the incumbent, and the resolution incorporated into the fire management planning process.

Complexity

The incumbent’s position involves a wide range of different and unrelated fire management planning processes and methods. The incumbent's position provides fire management technical advisory guidance in planning and implementing wildland fire monitoring, prescribed fire, and fuels activities. The position considers and evaluates interconnected factors such as: fire dynamics/behavior of various ecosystems, fuel loading, fire history, fire causes and associated audiences, fire danger, current and expected fire situation, resource availability, weather, smoke management issues, public safety, resources threatened, safety hazards, and costs (the incumbent must identify, evaluate, and consider these interrelated factors to develop alternative courses of action using appropriate methods and frameworks). The incumbent operates with considerable latitude to independently identify, analyze, and evaluate various conditions and elements and recommend an appropriate fire management planning decision. The incumbent evaluates objectives for fire management plans and assists with the development and implementation of fire management strategies.

Personal Contacts

Contacts include those with the national office, regional/state office, and field/local units; other federal, tribal, and state agencies throughout the geographic area, plus adjoining regions and/or states. 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 may include vendors used to accomplish specific assignments. Contacts are performed as formal presentations, interviews, informal exchanges, written reports, and correspondence.

Purpose of Contacts
Contacts are for the purpose of coordination and collaboration with various organizations and individuals to justify the feasibility of plans and proposals to encourage other experts to adopt new methods and approaches. Contacts are made for determining user needs, explaining proposed actions, gathering data and intelligence, and/or exchanging information.

Supervisory Controls
The position performs under general supervision, very difficult and responsible work along very special technical lines with considerable latitude for the exercise of independent judgement. The position may collaborate work projects with GS-11 FPL position however reports directly to the Fire Management Officer (FMO). The FMO sets the overall objectives and resources available. The incumbent, having expertise in the line of work, plans and carries out assignments in accordance with established instructions, policies, previous training, and accepted practices in fire management planning. The incumbent consults with the FMO on more serious issues not specifically covered in the original instructions and guidelines, while independently resolving most conflicts as they arise.

Work is reviewed for conformance with overall requirements as well as contribution to the objectives of the assignment.

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.