DOI Standard PD
PD# DX01800

Classification: Wildland Firefighter (Fuels Management), GS-0456-07

INTRODUCTION

This is an agency Standard Position Description (SPD) and serves as a Wildland Firefighter (Fuels Management) organizationally located within a wildland fire management program within one of the four bureaus of the Department of the Interior (Department); however, this position may be assigned work within the Local/Field environmental setting, interagency programs. 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).

The primary purpose of the position is to perform fuels management activities and functions at the unit/tribal level including prescribed fire, mechanical and biological fuels treatments, fire effects monitoring, fuels monitoring, smoke monitoring, and recognize how fuels management relates to other fire management functions. This position evaluates a wide array of factors when preparing fuels treatment projects within established and standard practices.

MAJOR DUTIES

Operations and Preparedness (60%)
Participates with higher-graded fuels management staff, fire management officers, and/or specialists in fuels management planning, implementation and monitoring. Conducts on-the-ground inspections or visits to field units.

Conducts routine field reconnaissance of prescribed fire/fuels treatment units, summarizes field findings, and makes basic recommendations on appropriate prescriptive criteria for meeting program objectives. Makes recommendations for fuels treatment plans.

Administers routine technical aspects of the prescribed fire plans, ensuring that preparation, ignition, holding, mop-up, and rehabilitation are completed to the standards specified.

Administers routine technical aspects of mechanical and biological fuels treatment plans, ensures preparation, project layout, implementation and rehabilitation are completed to the standards specified.

Assists in pre/post monitoring of fuels treatment implementation to include operational activities, objective achievement, identifying potential problems and making basic recommendations for future fuels treatments.

Ensures classroom and field training is provided to support prescribed fire and fuels management programs or provides routine training using highly structured material.

Operates, moves, inspects, and performs preventative maintenance on vehicles and equipment to conduct surveys, field reconnaissance, etc. This includes crew carriers, fire engines, command vehicles, pickups, and other specialized equipment to treat wildland fuels. Uses judgment to safely operate, maneuver, and set up vehicles and equipment in a variety of environments including urban, grassland, and mountainous terrain. Ensures adherence to vehicle safety procedures when transporting personnel, fuel, and equipment, considering bridge and road limits, equipment weight and length, and weather effects.

Participates in all aspects of a fire management program including fuels management, fire suppression, fire prevention, planning, monitoring, and post-fire activities. Applies an understanding of firefighter safety, fire behavior, topography of the area, weather, fuels, and training in fire management work to direct suppression operations and to recommend and implement tactical strategy on attacking, controlling, or mopping up fires, monitoring fire activity, building or patrolling firelines, cleaning up burned areas within firelines, suppressing spot fires, felling snags or trees, and cutting brush. Prepares control lines for burnout operations and participates in ignition/firing operations. Coordinates with aircraft for aviation support missions.

Planning (40%)
Conducts routine project assessments to determine the condition presence or absence of wildland fuels. Collects data on fuel conditions and fire behavior through a variety of methods, including field surveys, computer modeling software, and prescribed treatment methods. Results are reported to the supervisor, or higher-level fuels staff, and used in the determination and prioritization of fuels management projects.

Identifies fuels management objectives by reviewing various land management plans and recommends the appropriate treatment. Provides basic assistance in establishing study plots to assess fire and fire suppression impacts on the ecosystem. Participates in the development and refinement of plot characteristics, frequency of visits, subjects to be measured, and data storage and analysis techniques.

Drafts fuels management plans following the interagency template. This involves reviewing fuel treatment alternatives and may include preparing segments of a plan to support objectives of the fire management program. Uses a database to model and explain fire behavior and fire effects observation data. Applies procedures and techniques to ensure data quality. Applies proper data storage and archival procedures.

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 fire management plan, 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
The incumbent performs a variety of routine fuels management duties, which involve numerous procedures and operating requirements.

Decisions require evaluation of a wide array of factors when preparing fuels treatment projects within established and standard practices.

Actions to be taken are based on information of a factual nature such as environmental influences (weather and terrain) and fire behavior, fuels (type and condition), management objectives and resource protection concerns, strategies and tactics, resource availability, and capability, employee and public safety, use of aviation operations or support, and intra-inter-agency coordination requirements, etc.

Due to the nature of fire management work, the employee is required to react quickly and perform multiple, unrelated simultaneous assignments along with other competing demands in the work environment. At times, decisions need to be made under time-critical conditions.

Personal Contacts
Primary contacts are with fire and fuels project personnel, and others in non-fire functions. Additional contacts involve personnel from other local, state, regional, federal, and tribal agencies.

Purpose of Contacts
The primary purpose of contacts is to provide information to plan and conduct fire and fuels management projects.

Supervisory Controls
This position works under the direction of the supervisor and/or appropriate fire management staff member who defines objectives and sets priorities and deadlines. Approves work plans for the year with established duties and functions, work assignments, and operating policies and procedures. The supervisor is available for consultation and advice on new practices, difficult or unusual problems, or significantly modified principles and practices. 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: Work in the office is primarily sedentary. Field work does require frequent physical exertion, involving walking over rough terrain, sometimes for extended periods, and working under occasionally inclement (hot, cold, snow, wind, etc.) weather conditions.

The incumbent must be in good physical condition in order to safety perform field activities. The incumbent must be able to perform duties in areas of uncontrolled wildfire where hazardous conditions exist. The incumbent must be able to fly as a passenger in helicopters and single engine fixed wing aircraft.

Work Environment: Work is performed in both an office and field setting with field work. 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 management 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.

Qualifications and additional required training specified in the Interagency Fire Program Management (IFPM) Qualifications Standards and Guide may apply.

This is a testing designated position (TDP) under the Department of the Interior Drug-Free Workplace Program.

This position requires a valid state driver's license to operate a variety of motor vehicles to transport equipment, supplies, crewmembers, and others (as required).

May require additional specialized training and certification to operate specialized vehicles and equipment.