DOI Standard PD
PD# DX02000

Classification: Wildland Firefighter (Fuels Management), GS-0456-09

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 within the Field/Local environmental setting, interagency programs. This SPD may be used to fill permanent GS-09 level positions or may be used to fill GS-09 target GS-11 full performance level positions.

The primary purpose of this position is to direct prescribed fire/fuels management program that includes fuels management activities and functions at the unit/tribal level. These functions include prescribed fire, mechanical and biological fuels treatments, fire effects monitoring, fuels monitoring, smoke monitoring. At this grade level, the incumbent analyzes variables such as weather, fuels (type and condition), topography, fire behavior, management objectives and resource protection concerns, strategies and tactics, resource availability and capability, smoke impacts, employee and public safety, etc., and selects the appropriate strategy for implementing fuels management projects.

MAJOR DUTIES

Program Management (50%)
Directs a fuels management program. Provides short- and long-range planning; budgeting; and management of wildland fire, fuels management, and prescribed fire programs.

Ensures the smoke management program complies with state air quality standards. Coordinates with federal, state, tribal and local government air quality officials to comply with operational procedures and reporting requirements.

Recommends short-term fire management objectives and strategies based on the effects and behavior of prescribed fire. Reviews existing prescription treatments, monitoring methods, and new technologies and makes improvements to increase the organization's effectiveness relating to fuels management. Adjusts model inputs such as weather and fuels indices to forecast desired fire behavior and fire effects to meet objectives.

Reviews and makes recommendations on appropriate sections of the Fire Management Plan pertaining to prescribed fire and fuels treatments.

Planning (25%)
Serves as a member of an interdisciplinary team (forestry, wildlife biology, range management, geology, archeology, etc.) developing and implementing fire management plans; and developing land management plans, compliance documents, and agreements.

Analyzes values at risk data (e.g., infrastructure, property, natural and cultural resources) and evaluates and/or adjusts existing zone or unit level plans for fuels management, fire prevention and fire protection programs.

Assesses annual objectives and management direction to prepare treatment schedules to implement prescribed fire and fuels treatment projects.

Plans and conducts surveys to evaluate data for the development of fuels treatment prescriptions, and wildland fire monitoring.

Reviews project plans to identify appropriate levels of statistical sampling for monitoring to determine whether projects are meeting objectives. Recommends study plots to assess fire and fire suppression impacts on the ecosystem. Independently recommends, or in coordination with the supervisor or higher graded specialist, develops plot characteristics, frequency of visits, subjects to be measured, and data storage and analysis techniques.

Conducts project assessments which determine the condition 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 assessed to determine prescribed fire and mechanical treatment projects.

Reviews alternatives and prepares a wide variety of prescribed fire/fuels management plans following the current interagency template.

Selects and applies the most appropriate fire behavior model depending on desired fire potential to address; models and analyzes fire behavior and fire effects observation data. Safeguards data quality and ensures proper data storage and archival procedures are followed.

Operations and Safety (25%)
Coordinates and implements the technical and administrative aspects of the prescribed fire/fuels plan, ensuring that preparation, ignition, holding, mop-up, and rehabilitation are completed to the standards specified and in accordance with regulations, policies, and guidelines.

Evaluates treatment effectiveness, identifies potential problems and makes changes to ensure objectives are met, within policy and guidelines. Applicable methods and techniques for addressing safety issues contain gaps, deviations, or differences that must be critically examined prior to implementing full solutions.

Conducts fuels management surveys to document presence, amount, and types of hazardous fuels. Information is used for the prioritization of prescribed fire and fuels management projects.

Participates in contract administration activities under the guidance of a Contracting Officer's Representative (COR).

Conducts field reconnaissance of prescribed fire/fuels treatment units, summarizes field findings and identifies criteria for meeting program objectives. Responsible for record keeping associated with burn planning, fire occurrence reporting within fuels treatment areas, and weather.

Identifies and provides training needs for other prescribed fire and fuels management programs supporting staff.

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 a fire management program that includes fuels management, fire suppression, monitoring, and post-fire activities. Applies a thorough understanding of firefighter safety, fire behavior, topography of the area, weather, fuels, and training in fire management work to (1) direct suppression operations, and (2) recommend 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.

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.

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 fuels management program needs.

Complexity
The work entails performing a variety of prescribed fire, wildland fire monitoring, and fuels management support functions, each involving numerous procedures and operating requirements.

Identifies and analyzes variables such as weather, fuels (type and condition), topography, fire behavior, management objectives and resource protection concerns, strategies and tactics, resource availability and capability, smoke impacts, employee and public safety, etc. and selects the appropriate strategy for implementing fuels management projects.

Identifies and analyzes program components to discern interrelationships and adjusts as conditions change, such as those involving different types of treatments; resource and property values at risk; smoke management requirements; multiple jurisdictions, use of aviation operations or support; and intra- inter- agency coordination requirements.

Due to the nature of fire management work, the incumbent is required to react quickly and perform multiple, unrelated simultaneous assignments along with other competing demands in the work environment and when making time-critical decisions.

Personal Contacts
Primary contacts are with wildland fire, prescribed fire, and fuels treatment project personnel, and others in non-fire functions. Additional contacts involve personnel from other local, state, regional, federal, and tribal agencies, as well as contractors, cooperators, and the general public.

Purpose of Contacts
Contacts are necessary for planning, implementation and coordination of the fuels management program. Contacts are also made to coordinate activities, ensure compliance with established safe practices, solve operational problems, resolve conflicts, and conduct training.

Supervisory Controls
This position works under the direction of the supervisor and/or appropriate Fire management staff member who sets the overall objectives and resources available. The incumbent, having developed expertise in the line of work, is responsible for planning and carrying out assignments in accordance with established instructions, policies, previous training, and accepted practices in fire management planning. As needed, the incumbent consults with the supervisor or higher-graded specialist on matters not specifically covered in the original instructions and guidelines.

Completed work is usually evaluated for technical soundness, appropriateness, and conformity to policy and requirements. The methods used in arriving at the end results are not usually reviewed in detail.

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.