DOI Standard PD
PD#DX01100
Classification: Wildland Firefighter (Fire Management Planning), GS-0456-08

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 fire community.

The position's primary purpose is to perform special technical work and develop wildland fire management program plans which reflect national, regional, state, and local goals and objectives of wildland fire and aviation management. This SPD can be utilized to fill permanent GS-08 level positions or may be used to fill GS-08 target GS-11 full performance level positions. The position executes fire activities, along with higher graded Wildland Firefighters, in fire preparedness, fuels management and prevention, fire suppression, monitoring, and/or post-fire and participates on fire management and incident assignments thereby increasing expertise in subject areas, in fire preparedness, fuels management, prevention, fire suppression, monitoring, and/or post-fire recovery, and to acquire information to be used in the performance of duties.

The incumbent performs very difficult and responsible work under general supervision and carries out technical fire management planning projects and assignments.

MAJOR DUTIES

Wildland Fire Planning (60%)

Conducts periodic on-the-ground inspections and/or visits to field units related to fire management for the purposes of training and instruction in fire management planning which reflects national, regional, state, and local management goals and objectives related to fire management.

Makes recommendations for the development of fire plans and consideration of fire management alternatives while performing duties in collaborations with higher-graded fire planners and/or specialists.

Applies technical fire planning knowledge to resolve fire planning problems and participates in the analyses and resolution of more complex or unique problems relating to local fire management issues. Contributes to the development and delivery of specialized guidance, leadership, coordination, and technical assistance for managing and applying wildland fire planning processes and procedures.

Develops specifically assigned fire plan content with environmental and/or natural resource specialists in ensuring plan content that is 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 outlined 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).

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.

Utilizes geospatial and strategic fire planning analyses. Coordinates and supports the use of geospatial information technology in strategic fire management planning which includes interpretation of fire resource geospatial data for management as well as providing technical reports in the form of spreadsheets, tabular summaries, maps, and narrative descriptions. Promotes the integration of fire management topics into local land management plans (L/RMPs).

Contributes to the fire planning-related agreements between local fire programs and cooperating agencies and organizations.

Develops wildland fire project goals and objectives and provides input regarding existing wildland fire management plan components (e.g., fuels treatments, smoke management, preparedness plans, fire danger planning, etc.).

Assists fire planners, fire management officers, and/or specialists with (FMP) Fire Management Plans, at the local, regional, and state levels.

To ensure an integrated fire management response, collaborates with partner agencies and/or organizations on process, decisions, documentation, and evaluation. Maintains open communication with interagency partners and other agency personnel involved in the fire planning process. Works across jurisdictional boundaries to collaborate with all surrounding land management organizations, both for response to unplanned wildfires and for planned projects. Partners include all the federal wildland fire bureaus (US Forest 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). Provides wildland fire planning records management support for fire management officers, land, or resource management staff, fire planners, and other specialists within the fire program.

Participates in data collection and review of fire hazard risk, fuels, historic fire occurrence, fire effects, climatology, and/or weather-related data. Reviews fire management data for adequacy, appropriateness, and accuracy for the purposes of historic fire occurrence, fire cause, fire effects, climatology, and weather-related data.

Provides recommendations for local planning information/data, for inclusion in state, regional, and/or national plans, projects, and 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%)
Participates and provides recommendations to the implementation of 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 through local knowledge to the fire management officer, about resource management and 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.

Participates in the development and implementation of specifically assigned analytical tools used for local interagency fire management planning. Makes recommendations on enhancements to meet user needs.

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

Evaluates 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. 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 or are not always completely applicable, requiring the incumbent to use some judgment in applying the guidelines or extending their applicability to typical assignments. For more complex assignments, the supervisor or higher-graded position will discuss the interpretation and application of applicable

legislation, interagency policies, etc. until the incumbent demonstrates the competency to independently interpret and make minor to moderate deviations to guidelines. Significant deviations will continue to require the supervisor's attention.

Complexity
The incumbent's position involves a wide range of different and unrelated fire management planning processes and methods and provides fire management technical planning and implementation of wildland fire monitoring, prescribed fire, and fuels activities. The position analyzes 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; and identifies, evaluates, and considers these interrelated factors in developing alternative courses of action within appropriate methods and frameworks. The incumbent identifies, evaluates, and determines the interrelationships of the fire and physical environments to apply the most appropriate methods from among various alternatives.

Personal Contacts
Contacts include those with 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 general 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 coordination and collaboration 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
This position works under the direction of the Fire Management Officer (FMO) and performs very difficult and responsible work along special technical lines. The supervisor sets the overall objectives and resources available. The incumbent, having developed some expertise in the line of work, is responsible for planning and carrying out the assignment, coordinating the work with others as necessary, and interpreting policy on own initiative in terms of established objectives, seeking assistance as needed on unique or highly unusual situations. All work is reviewed upon completion; however, the supervisor may periodically review work in progress to verify accuracy and conformance to required procedures and any special instructions.

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.