DOI Standard PD
PD# DX01900

Classification: Wildland Firefighter (Fuels Management), GS-0456-08

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-08 level positions or may be used to fill GS-08 target GS-11 full performance level positions.

The primary purpose of this 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. At this grade level, the incumbent analyzes variables such as weather, fuels, topography, fire behavior, management objectives and resource protection concerns, strategies and tactics, resource availability and capability, smoke impacts, employee and public safety, etc., to determine the appropriate course of action when developing fuels management projects.

MAJOR DUTIES

Operations and Preparedness (50%)
Prepares and implements routine aspects of the prescribed fire/fuels plan, ensuring that preparation, implementation, and rehabilitation are completed to the standards specified and in accordance with regulations, policies, and guidelines. Monitors treatment effectiveness, identifies potential problems, and makes recommendations. Recommends solutions for technical problems requiring the use of specialized or complicated techniques.

Participates in conducting fuels management surveys to document presence, amount, and types of fuels. Utilizes this information to prioritize prescribed fire and fuels management projects.

Conducts routine field reconnaissance of prescribed fire/fuels treatment units, summarizes field findings and makes recommendations from a variety of appropriate prescriptive criteria for meeting program objectives. Responsible for record keeping associated with fuels treatments.

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

Performs pre/post monitoring of operational activities during fuels treatments implementation to achieve established objectives.

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

Monitors current fire behavior and fire effects to determine if fire management objectives are met.

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

Provides routine classroom and field training using highly structured material to support prescribed fire and fuels management programs.

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 prevention, planning, fire suppression, 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 (30%)
Participates as an interdisciplinary team member under the direction of other fuels management staff, or fire management officer. Develops and recommends plans and schedules for the prescribed fire, wildland fire monitoring, and fuels treatment projects. Recommends solutions for technical problems requiring the use of specialized and/or complicated techniques. Uses input from the interdisciplinary team, management direction, and annual objectives to develop and recommend prioritization and timing of fuels management projects.

Conducts surveys and evaluates data to develop fuels treatments, and prescriptions for prescribed fire and wildland fire monitoring.

Reviews project plans and makes recommendations on appropriate levels of monitoring. Assists in establishing study plots to assess fire and fire suppression impacts on the ecosystem. Develops and refines plot characteristics, frequency of visits, subjects to be measured, and data storage and analysis techniques.

Conducts routine project assessments which determine the 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 fuels treatment methods. Results are assessed for the determination and prioritization of fuels treatments projects.

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

Utilizes a database to model and analyze fire behavior and fire effects observation data. Ensures data quality. Ensures proper data storage and archival procedures are followed.

Program Management (20%)
Participates in planning and coordinating routine or limited aspects of the fuels management program. Assists in program direction, short- and long-range planning; budgeting; and managing wildland fire, fuels management, and prescribed fire programs. Monitors a variety of limited operational projects to address technical fire management problems.

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.

Researches the effects of fuels treatments to aid in the development of short-term fire management objectives and strategies. Evaluates prescription treatments and monitoring methods and selects the most appropriate course of action.

Reviews and comments as necessary on routine sections of the Fire Management Plan pertaining to prescribed fire and fuels treatments.

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 some 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 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. to determine the appropriate course of action when developing fuels management projects.

Identifies and analyzes program components to discern interrelationships and adjusts as conditions change, such as those involving different types of treatments; 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 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, as well as cooperators and the general public.

Purpose of Contacts
The primary purpose of contacts is to provide information, plan and conduct wildfire suppression, prescribed fire, and fuels treatment projects. Contacts also involve assisting with coordinating activities, ensuring compliance with established safe practices, solving operational problems, resolving routine conflicts, and conducting training.

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. The incumbent is relied upon to independently carry assignments through to completion. Work plans for non-routine activities and controversial aspects of assignments are typically discussed with the supervisor or the Fire Management Specialist. The supervisor is usually available for consultation and advice on new practices or significantly modified principles and practices. 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: 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.