

FIRE RANGER

PREAMBLE

This series includes positions actively involved in the pre-suppression, detection and suppression of forest fires. Employees are assigned to the Fire Prevention, Fire Ranger, Firetac and Helitac programs and function as Fire Prevention Assistants, Aerial Detection Observers, Tower Observers, District Fire Rangers, Firetac and Helitac Crew Members, Firetac and Helitac Leaders, Regional Fire Rangers and Helitac Officers. Extensive fire management training courses are provided by the department and successful completion of specified levels is mandatory for all levels in this series except for level 1, Aerial Detection Observers.

Exclusions

This series will not include emergency fire fighting positions, or positions involved in the operational management of forest fire detection and suppression, or regional Fire Control Officers, or positions with primary responsibility for fire management program planning and development.

Definitions

Fire Management Training

A 5-level series of training courses provided by the department in the areas of staff indoctrination, safety, people management and training, communications and fire business, equipment use and maintenance, fire behaviour, suppression tactics and aircraft operations.

Emergency Fire Fighters

Emergency Fire Fighters referred to herein are casual employees hired on an as-required basis, for forest fire suppression activities. Emergency Fire Fighters undertake level 1, Fire Management Training Course, when hired.

Firetac Program

Crews specifically trained to attack and extinguish forest fires. Crew and necessary equipment normally transported by truck.

Helitac Program

Crews specifically trained to attack and extinguish forest fires. Crew and necessary equipment transported by helicopter.

FIRE RANGER 1

GENERAL

Employees in this class function as Aerial Detection Observers. Under the supervision of a Fire Control Officer or Conservation Officer, the work is carried out from an aircraft that patrols a designated area.

TYPICAL DUTIES

Acts as an observer on detection aircraft.

Reports smoke locations and other relevant information such as forest fuels, winds, and other conditions.

Maintains accurate detection records.

Plots burning permit locations on map prior to each flight.

Operates radio communication equipment.

May operate forest fire weather equipment and maintains data charts.

Performs other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge, Abilities and Skills

Knowledge of fire weather, fire behaviour and reporting procedures.

Knowledge of radio communication equipment and terminology.

Communications skills.

Ability to read topographical maps.

Education, Training and Experience

One year's experience in forest fire activities, or first or second year completion of the Resource Management Training course, or a combination of training and experience acceptable to the Civil Service Commission.

FIRE RANGER 2

GENERAL

Employees in this class function as Fire Prevention Assistants, Tower Observers, District Fire Rangers, Firetac Crew Members or Helitac Crew Members.

Fire Prevention Assistant - Assists the Regional Fire Control Officer in the promotion of fire prevention programs.

Tower Observer - Reporting to the Senior District Fire Ranger or Conservation Officer, operates and maintains a lookout tower, tower site, maintains equipment and equipment cache.

District Fire Ranger - Reporting to the Senior District Fire Ranger or Conservation Officer, assists with detection, pre-suppression and suppression activities.

Firetac or Helitac Crew Member - a member of a team specifically trained to provide initial attack on fires.

TYPICAL DUTIES

Maintains a lookout tower and reports smoke bearings.

Maintains the tower site and buildings.

Operates forest fire weather equipment and maintains data charts.

Operates radio communication equipment.

Maintains equipment cache and keeps records of equipment locations.

Orders supplies, hires Emergency Fire Fighters and may direct suppression action on fires.

Trains and supervises Emergency Fire Fighters.

Conducts ground patrols.

Operates, maintains and repairs fire equipment.

Liaises with local government districts, municipalities, schools and the general public to promote fire prevention measures.

Performs other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge, Abilities and Skills

Knowledge of forest fire fighting techniques, fire behaviour and fire weather, fire fighting equipment and radio communication equipment.

Organizational and leadership skills.

Ability to communicate effectively.

Education, Training and Experience

A minimum of one year related work experience or a combination of education and experience acceptable to the Civil Service Commission. Levels 1 and 2 Fire Management Training.

FIRE RANGER 3

GENERAL

Employees in this class function in supervisory capacities as Senior District Fire Rangers, Firetac Leaders or Helitac Leaders.

Senior District Fire Ranger - supervises the work of Fire Rangers in the detection, pre-suppression and suppression activities of a large district.

Firetac Leader - supervises the activities of a Firetac crew.

Helitac Leader - supervises the activities of a Helitac crew.

TYPICAL DUTIES

Directs forest fire suppression activities including ordering supplies, hiring and training Emergency Fire Fighters, and maintaining detailed records.

Promotes and ensures crew safety; investigates and reports all accidents.

Supervises the maintenance of fire equipment and equipment caches.

May establish and operate base camps on a large fire.

Prepares forest fire reports, including factors such as costs, forest losses, acreage lost, fire equipment breakdown and losses, etc.

Records employee's time.

Evaluates performance of staff and makes recommendations to Regional Fire Ranger or Conservation Officer.

Supervises construction projects such as fire guards, lookout towers, storage buildings, etc.

May co-ordinate the fire detection system of one or more adjoining districts.

Participates in the training of Emergency Fire Fighters and junior staff.

Performs other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge, Abilities and Skills

Knowledge of forest fire fighting, fire behaviour, and fire weather.

Knowledge of administrative practices and procedures, safety regulations, and fire reporting procedures.

Ability to supervise and to give clear, concise instructions.

Ability to work under stress.

Ability to develop and maintain good working relationships.

Organizational and leadership skills.

Ability to communicate effectively.

Education, Training and Experience

Level 3 Fire Management Training and a minimum of three years' experience in fire detection and suppression activities, or a combination of education and experience acceptable to the Civil Service Commission.

FIRE RANGER 4

GENERAL

Under the general direction of the Regional Fire Control Officer, employees in this class have a major co-ordinating responsibility in addition to their supervisory responsibilities and function as Regional Fire Rangers or Helitac Officers managing a helitac base.

Regional Fire Ranger - responsible for the region's equipment and human resource needs for forest fire prevention, detection and suppression activities.

Helitac Officer - responsible for a helitac base camp of 4 or 5 helitac crews. Dispatches crews and determines which fire will be attacked. Responsible for all camp operations.

TYPICAL DUTIES

Manages a helitac base.

Plans, organizes and directs the suppression of forest fires.

Acts as aircraft spotter (bomber and detection) when required.

Maintains regional fire equipment caches.

Responsible for the annual inspection and maintenance of fire weather stations, lookout towers and fire equipment in the region.

Participates in training Fire Fighters, Fire Rangers and standby crews, and in local community preventative training programs.

Compiles data for region's annual fire report.

Supervises construction projects.

Assists Fire Control Officer or Conservation Officer in supervision of prescribed burns.

Assists with forest fire prevention programs.

Performs other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge, Abilities and Skills

Thorough knowledge of administrative procedures and practices.

Thorough knowledge of The Fire Prevention Act and related departmental policies.

Thorough knowledge of fire weather, fire fighting techniques and equipment, and fire behaviour, safety procedures and regulations.

Ability to establish and maintain effective work relationships.

Ability to work under stressful conditions.

Ability to communicate effectively.

Organizational and leadership skills.

Supervisory skills.

Education, Training and Experience

Level 4 Fire Management Training with several years' related experience, or a combination of education and experience acceptable to the Civil Service Commission.