

THSP - Exception Position 4

Parachute Rigger

Introduction

Serves as Parachute Loft Technician assigned to the Northern Rockies, Missoula, Montana Smokejumper Unit. The incumbent serves as an FAA licensed Master Parachute Rigger and performs related loft duties. The incumbent provides the needed technical skill and supervision of parachute packing and repair, and various other loft duties. This position is used only during extreme fire emergencies and fits the AD hiring authority.

The Duties

Work Planning and Organization - Plans work schedules on a daily or project basis and makes adjustments to meet changes in workload, variations in staffing, and to meet priorities. Plans for and obtains supplies and insures that equipment is available, ready, and safe to use. Maintains work accomplishment report.

Work Assignment and Review - Assigns work to individuals based on their training or experience, and sets standards of performance, participates with supervisors in directing and preparing training and operating guidelines. Has one or more assistants who demonstrate, observe and correct work practices, and review routine work accomplishments. Takes corrective action to obtain satisfactory quality and quantity of work. Informs employees of objectives of management.

Full and Final Technical Responsibility - Assumes Full responsibility for numerous technical decisions. Commonly resolves technical problems in emergency situations. Unit Supervisor is available for consultation on any project problem.

Size of workforce - Work force varies with a minimum of 6 to 40 and includes one or more assistants at GS-7.

Special Additional Responsibilities - The Incumbent plans and schedules work assignments, and insures that supplies, equipment and operating plans are provided. The size of the work force fluctuates seasonally. The workload is variable and unpredictable due to the emergency nature of fire suppression. Incumbent must

exercise currency on FS Manuals, FAA regulations, National and Regional policies. In the absence of Unit Supervisor and/or Operation foreman is given full authority.

Informs licensed parachute riggers of current packing and repair methods. Provides parachute rigging training to returning experienced Jumpers.

Interprets detailed parachute loft manuals and insures adherence to standards.

Oversees inventory in parachute loft and that all items are accounted for.

Factor 1 - Knowledge Required by the Position

Thorough knowledge of parachute loft operations and FAA licensed Master Parachute Rigger to advise and perform technical repairs and related loft activities.

Responsible for the supervision and training of personnel assigned to the loft for the repair and packing of parachutes and related equipment.

Thorough knowledge of FAA rules and regulations to locate, interpret and apply them to recurring parachute loft operation assignments and problems.

Well-developed written and verbal communication skills to prepare reports and provide formal and informal Instruction to trainees.

Complete knowledge of entire parachute loft equipment to accurately track inventory.

Factor 2 - Supervisory Controls

Works under the general supervision of the Unit Supervisor who sets objectives, establishes priorities, and provides assistance during the completion of unusual, exceptionally or precedent setting actions. The incumbent plans and schedules recurring work and independently handles most problems and carries most work through to completion on own initiative according to previous training and experience.

The Supervisor reviews work for technical accuracy, coordination with parachute loft and fire suppression functions and consistency with policy.

Factor 3 - Guidelines

Guidelines include the US Forest Service manuals (specifically air operation), FAA regulations, the Health and Safety Code, Smokejumper Handbook, Fireline Handbook, other written guides and oral instructions. The incumbent must locate and interpret applicable guides and precedents from a variety of sources and apply them to unique

problems. Considerable judgment must be employed because of the complexity in parachute rigging and fire suppression support activity.

Factor 4 - Complexity

Assignments involve organizing, developing and directing projects in the parachute loft and supervising fire suppression support functions. Incumbent must exercise independent and mature judgment. Parachute loft projects often require departing from past approaches and extending traditional techniques of developing new ones to meet major objectives.

Factor 5 - Scope and Effect

The purpose of the work is to provide technical expertise and leadership skills in the operations of the parachute loft assignments. Work efforts have a definite impact on the subordinate's performance. Decisions made by the incumbent will provide for safety and minimize the loss of forest resources and wildlife.

Factor 6 - Personal Contacts

Contacts are commonly made with smokejumper overhead and crew, other members of the fire organization and cooperating agencies, and occasionally the public.

Factor 7 - Purpose of Contacts

Contacts are made to inform and supervise subordinates working in the loft, exchange information, and coordinate work efforts.

Factor 8 - Physical Demands

The work requires physical exertion for extended periods including walking, standing, lifting, and carrying over 50 pounds.

Factor 9 - Work Environment

Work is spent in a well-lighted and climate controlled environment.