

SEASONAL FIREFIGHTER III

Definition:

Under general supervision, serves as a skilled crew member of a wildland fire suppression crew.

Distinguishing Characteristics

The Seasonal Firefighter III is the advanced level in the Seasonal Firefighter series. This position functions in a lead capacity under the direction of the Seasonal Fire Supervisor. Incumbents have an enhanced working knowledge of fire behavior and fire control and suppression techniques. It is distinguished from the Seasonal Firefighter II level by virtue of the lead responsibility. Assignments are often carried out independently without specific instructions. Problems involving unfamiliar conditions are referred to the supervisor for guidance.

Essential Functions:

- Perform assignments to develop knowledge of fuels management and fire suppression techniques and practices such as fireline construction, backfiring methods, safety rules and fire and fuels management terminology.
- Searches out and extinguishes burning materials by moving dirt, applying water by hose or backpack pump.
- Moves dirt, chops brush, fells small to moderate size trees to build fireline using hand tools to include an axe, shovel, Pulaski, McLeod and chainsaw to control wildland fire; prepares fire breaks prior to controlled burning; and chops, carries and piles brush and timber slash.
- Patrols the fireline to locate and extinguish sparks, flare-ups and spot fires that may threaten loss of control of constructed fireline for prescribed burning or to control wildfire.
- Cleans, reconditions and stores hand tools, chainsaws and equipment; assists Seasonal Fire Supervisor in training of the use of tools and equipment; and ensures that tools and equipment are maintained to prescribed standards.
- Performs work during reduction and modification projects, slash disposal, prescribed burning projects; and firebreak construction and maintenance.
- May operate slip-on or portable pumping units and lay out hose as appropriate.
- Performs other job-related duties as assigned.

Employment Standards:

Successful completion of two (2) fire seasons as a Seasonal Firefighter I/II with the Kern County Fire Department or a comparable position in another jurisdiction

OR

Completion of thirty (30) semester or forty-five (45) quarter units from an accredited college or university in Fire Technology.

Knowledge of: fire behavior and fire control techniques to carry out assigned fuels and wildland fire tasks; standard forestry practices and techniques, including accepted fire suppression and controlled burning methods to be used in various types of fuels and under a variety of weather conditions and terrain; fireline terminology; work procedures and practices in working with helicopters and aircraft; and safety techniques.

Ability to: understand fireline terminology to communicate with other crew member, including the use of two-way radios; use hand tools such as an axe, shovel, Pulaski, McLeod and chain saws to build fireline and extinguish burning materials.

The work requires strenuous physical exertion for extended periods including, but not limited to, walking, climbing, shoveling, chopping, throwing, lifting, and frequently carrying objects weighing 50 pounds or more.

Because of the strenuous nature of this job, the employee will be required to maintain fitness through daily physical training as determined by the crew supervisor.

The work is performed in a wildland environment in steep uneven, rocky terrain, covered with thick tangled vegetation. Temperatures are frequently extreme, due to weather and/or fire conditions. Smoke and dust conditions are frequently severe and employee may be exposed to weather borne illnesses. The hazardous nature of the position requires that protective clothing (boots, hard hats, gloves, fire resistive clothing) must be worn. Hazards may include, but are not limited to, falling or rolling materials.

A background check may be conducted for this classification.

All Kern County employees are designated "Disaster Service Workers" through state and local laws (CA Government Code Sec.3100-3109 and Ordinance Code Title 2-Administration, Ch. 2.66 Emergency Services). As Disaster Service Workers, all County employees are expected to remain at work, or to report for work as soon as practicable, following a significant emergency or disaster.

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Formerly: Seasonal Firefighter Crewleader