

March 2013

POSITION DESCRIPTION – NORTHERN REGION
Aviation Operations Specialist
THSP – Exception Position 5 – Level AD-K

This position is responsible for the management of aviation operations on a Forest. It requires skill in the planning and coordination of complex air operations as they apply to wildland firefighting. Knowledge of accepted aviation and wildland fire safety practices in order to prevent injury and potential loss of life and property is required. It also provides technical and administrative supervision to Helibase and Air Tanker Base personnel.

Establishes priority for rotor and fixed wing tactical and logistical aircraft on inter-agency emergencies. Authorizes clearance into agency initiated restricted airspace around emergency incident areas for cooperator, media, and military aircraft.

Knowledge of wildland fire suppression methods and techniques to provide technical operations expertise on wildland fires is required. Incumbent must have a thorough knowledge and previous experience in complex wildland firefighting techniques, fire equipment, fire behavior, fuel models, and the Incident Command System.

Knowledge of the performance capabilities and limitations of fixed wing and rotary wing aircraft such as, but not limited to Air Tankers, Smokejumper Aircraft, Air Attack, Helicopters, Aerial Reconnaissance and CWN passenger restricted aircraft.

Ability to assess cost benefits of tactical and logistical aircraft use in relation to costs of operating aircraft, cost of retardant, resource values, and land management planning constraints; required to follow through or adjust decisions and or make recommendations based on effectiveness, efficiency and safety.

Knowledge of retardant base mixing, loading and traffic operations.

The incumbent must be able to identify actual and potential aircraft safety problems and take immediate corrective action to provide safe separation and or corrective action to alleviate the problem, or make the decision to shut an aviation operation down until the situation is corrected or adverse weather and/or visibility improves.

/s/ Tracey Nimlos
Incident Business Coordinator
Region 1 - USFS