

June 2008

**Position Description – Northern Region
Safety Assistance Team Member
THSP – Exception Position 5 – AD-K**

General: The Safety Assistant Team member works individually or as a member of a small team. They assist geographic area fire managers promote safe fire operations, as well as discover and reveal safety issues. Safety Assistance Team members are experienced and mature, and are expected to inspire firefighters and review situations in terms of the larger human performance and the interagency fire arena.

Safety Assistance Teams are assembled during periods of critical fire operations. They are tasked with visiting firefighters at home stations, as well as large fire camps. They present safety information, conduct informative demonstrations, and interview firefighters and fire managers. They travel extensively and make independent decisions regarding itinerary while coordinating with the Northern Rockies Fire Operations Safety Specialist.

Experience and Abilities: Individuals must be an expert in principles of fire operations, and understand agency issues. They have gained their high skill level and knowledge by participation on Type 1 and Type 2 incidents. They may or may not be currently qualified in an ICS position, but have been in the past. With that experience they are able to assess and evaluate complex situations and intuitively identify weak points in behavior and organization. They identify issues such as fatigue, complacency, lack of situational awareness (particularly in relation to current extreme burning conditions), short-cutting standard procedures, and equipment and infrastructure problems.

Team members are chosen for their exceptional ability to relate to people, particularly young firefighters, but also senior firefighters and managers at all levels. They must have a facilitative style that seeks solutions to often complex situations.

Each team is expected to prepare a report that describes their itinerary and identifies the issues encountered that are appropriate for elevation within the agency.

/s/ Jane M. Haker

Incident Business Coordinator
Region One - USFS