

## STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA CLASS SPECIFICATION

**Class Title: Wildland Firefighter**

**Class Code: 060643**

**Pay Grade: GD**

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### **A. Purpose:**

The Wildland Firefighter is the first-level worker and serves on an engine or hand crew and follows appropriate work and safety practices at wildland fires and other emergencies, and assists with fire prevention and remediation projects according to project plans.

### **B. Distinguishing Feature:**

The Wildland Firefighter is the first-level worker to assist with day-to-day project work and in the suppression of wildland fires.

The Wildland Firefighter Squad Boss is the first-level lead worker over one of multiple squads within a Type II initial attack handcrew.

The Wildland Firefighter Crew Foreman is the first-level lead worker of multiple squad bosses within a Type II initial attack handcrew.

### **C. Functions:**

*(These are examples only; any one position may not include all of the listed examples nor do the listed examples include all functions which may be found in positions of this class.)*

1. Assists with day-to-day project work and in the suppression of wildland fires both in and out of state.
  - a. Ensures occupational safety through active assessment, communication, and mitigation of hazards during both project and incident work.
  - b. Follows directions from the crew foreman or squad boss regarding tactical objectives and implementing them in a safe and efficient manner.
  - c. Recognizes, communicates, and reacts to changes in fire and weather behavior and to mitigate unsafe situations quickly and intelligently.
  - d. Performs hazardous fuels mitigation and reduction work, building and grounds maintenance and other projects.
  - e. Operates powered and manual hand tools and fire pumps as needed to meet project and incident objectives.
2. Maintains preparedness standards on fire line safety and hazard avoidance.
  - a. Ensures daily readiness to include physical fitness, vehicle maintenance, and general equipment maintenance to respond to emergency situations.
  - b. Reports daily activities to the crew foreman or squad boss.
  - c. Proposes requests regarding logistical needs.
  - d. Ensures adherence to set standards and policies.
3. Performs other work as assigned.

### **D. Reporting Relationships:**

Reports to a Wildland Firefighter Crew/Engine Boss. Does not supervise.

#### **E. Challenges and Problems:**

Challenged to work in adverse and dangerous conditions. This is difficult because each incident has its own hazards and strategies and tactics which puts each of them in a slightly different situation and conditions can change quickly.

Problems include time management to ensure work is in compliance with standards, maintaining good morale in trying conditions, and resource maintenance to ensure readiness.

#### **F. Decision-making Authority:**

Decisions include reacting to changes in fire and weather behavior and to mitigate unsafe situations quickly and intelligently using appropriate safety methods while adhering to set standards and policies.

Decisions referred include purchases, approval of requests for logistical needs, and work schedules.

#### **G. Contact with Others:**

Daily contact with coworkers and lead workers to exchange information and assist each other on work assignments.

#### **H. Working Conditions:**

Works on fires and is exposed to burns, smoke inhalation, heat exhaustion, and extensive hard labor; works in emergency situations and may be exposed to uncertain conditions, bad weather, hazardous materials, etc.; works on projects which require use of power and hand tools which have an element of risk, hard labor, and exposure to falling trees; and works in rough terrain.

#### **I. Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:**

Knowledge of:

- power tools and equipment typically used in fire and emergency situations such as chain saws, axes, shovels, picks, etc.,
- equipment maintenance and safety practices.

Ability to:

- communicate effectively,
- maintain required physical fitness standards.

#### **J. Licensure and Certification:**

Must be qualified as a Firefighter Type 1 according to National Wildfire Coordinating Group PMS-310-1, and must have a valid driver license.