

## FORESTRY PILOT I

Employees pilot single engine fixed or rotary wing aircraft in a variety of missions including patrol, forest fire suppression, passenger flights, and search and rescue.

Employees conduct pre-flight and post-flight inspections of aircraft and note all discrepancies in a maintenance log, and maintain all other necessary logs and reports related to their flights. Work includes planning flights considering weather, navigational aids, routing, altitudes, alternative routes and destinations, loading and weight distribution, and fuel requirements. Pilots in this class fly patrol and other missions to detect, locate and analyze the potential damage of a wildfire. This includes directing ground crews to fire locations and providing them with information concerning fire direction and behavior, fire size and rate of spread, safety considerations, weather conditions, and helping to formulate a plan, of attack to effectively control the fire. Employees also fly point to point, pest control, forest management, photography, search and rescue missions, and may lead water tankers to drop points during fire suppression flights. Employees regularly fly at very low altitudes over rugged terrain and in turbulent air conditions, and often with very restricted visibility during wildfire suppression missions. Employees may also locate sources of water and fill the helicopter drop bucket often in very tight conditions with little rotor clearance, drop retardant and water in exact locations under turbulent air and low visibility conditions, move or rescue trapped firefighters, estimate and negotiate aerial ignition forest management contracts, and conduct flights using aerial ignition equipment to start back fires or for controlled burns.

Pilots in this class are normally the pilot in command and conduct take offs and landings at both high and low density airports including grass strips, assist in the maintenance of their aircraft including 50 hour, 100 hour and annual inspections, and perform other duties and responsibilities as assigned.

### I. DIFFICULTY OF WORK:

Variety and Scope - Employees normally pilot one general type of aircraft on a variety of missions such as patrol, forest fire suppression, passenger flights, photography, and search and rescue.

Intricacy - Employees compute loading and weight distribution considering passengers, equipment and fuel, and perform checks of aircraft systems. Work includes continually analyzing aircraft performance and weather conditions in order to make judgements on whether to reroute or cancel flights. Flights can range in difficulty from clear VFR to near IFR conditions.

Subject Matter Complexity - Employees apply a full knowledge of piloting, aircraft performance and the appropriate regulations and policies, along with an understanding of weather conditions and communications, the use of aircraft in combating forest fires and forest fire control techniques.

Guidelines - Employees use a variety of standardized guidelines and policies that cover most aspects of work including FAA regulations, aircraft operations and maintenance manuals, and department policies.

### II. RESPONSIBILITY:

Nature of Instructions - Employees perform continuing piloting assignments as pilot in command and normally do not have any direct supervision available. However, the operations manual usually details the rules and regulations of employee procedures, conduct, training, flight operations, flight crew coordination, operational limitations and maintenance of equipment.

Nature of Review - A significant portion of the employees work is reviewed through pilot logs, flight operations reports, passenger feedback, and direct observation by check flights.

Scope of Decisions - Work performed and judgements made normally affect the individual pilot, ground fire fighting units, passengers, and the general public in and around a forest fire.

Consequence of Decisions - Judgements made while pilot in command could directly affect aircraft operation and lead to the injury or death of passengers and crew, and possibly ground fire-fighting units.

III. INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS:

Scope of Contacts - The majority of contacts are with department maintenance personnel, aircraft controllers, ground fire fighting units, and the passengers and crew.

Nature and Purpose - Most contacts are to gather, exchange or explain information concerning flight operations, weather, fire conditions' or fire behavior, safety, and aircraft maintenance.

IV. OTHER WORK DEMANDS:

Work Conditions - Working conditions are generally comfortable although some cockpits can be cramped and hot with significant sun glare.

Hazards - The greatest hazard involving flight operations is the possibility of equipment failure and/or pilot error which could lead to a fatal crash.

V. RECRUITMENT STANDARDS:

Knowledges, Skills and Abilities - Thorough knowledge of the Federal Aviation Administration and Federal Communication Commission rules and regulations, and the State Statutes governing the operation and maintenance of aircraft. Thorough knowledge of air navigation and of single engine aircraft capabilities and performances. Considerable knowledge of flight planning, meteorology, forest fire behavior and fire fighting techniques, and aircraft maintenance requirements. Ability to pilot single engine aircraft in clear and turbulent weather conditions. Ability to communicate effectively and to establish and maintain pleasant working relationships.

Minimum Training and Experience Requirements - Graduation from high school and a minimum of 1000 hours of flight time in a closely related type of aircraft and/or type of mission, along with a minimum of two years of related experience; or an equivalent combination of training and directly related experience.

Necessary Special Requirements - Certification as a FAA private or commercial pilot in airplanes and/or rotorcraft, and possession of an FAA Class II Medical Certificate.

Special Note - This is a generalized representation of positions in this class and is not intended to identify essential functions per ADA. Examples of work are primarily essential functions of the majority of positions in this class, but may not be applicable to all positions.