



CLASS SPECIFICATION

Class Code: 18802
Date Est: 09/2020
Last Rev: 03/2026
Last Title Chg:
FLSA: Non-exempt
Probation: 12 Months

HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR

DEFINITION

Under general supervision, maintains, inspects, transports, and operates a variety of heavy equipment types during firefighting and fuels management projects; manages specific small-scale budgets and programs within the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Wildland Division and performs related work as required.

EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

Graduation from high school or successful certification of equivalency (GED) AND five hundred (500) hours of heavy equipment operations (i.e. to include bull dozers, excavators, skid steers, loaders, graders, cabled timber yarders, etc.) experience; including two hundred (200) hours of tracked equipment experience; AND five (5) seasons of firefighting experience; OR an equivalent combination of education and experience.

LICENSE OR CERTIFICATE

Required at time of application:

- Valid Nevada Class C driver's license, or equivalent, which complies with the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles' requirement.
- NWCG S-130 Basic Wildland Firefighter
- NWCG S-190 Introduction to Fire Behavior
- ICS 100, 200, 700, and 800

Required within one (1) year of appointment:

- Valid Class A Commercial Driver's License with tanker, and hazardous materials endorsements.
- TMFPD Natural Resource Task Book
- NWCG S-290 Intermediate Fire Behavior
- NWCG S-211 Portable Pumps
- NWCG S-212 Power Chain Saws
- International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist OR Nevada Department of Agriculture certified pesticide applicator
- Red Card Qualification as NWCG Firefighter Type 1

Required at the times specified below:

- CPR certification with hands-on skills assessment within six (6) months of appointment.
- Red Card Qualification as NWCG Heavy Equipment Boss is required within three (3) years of appointment.

SUPERVISION EXERCISED

May operate in a lead role over project and fire assignment staff.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES *(The following is used as a partial description and is not restrictive as to duties required.)*

Transport crews and equipment to and from job sites; maintain related records for projects and fire assignments;

complete project and fire evaluations on staff; and communicate with dispatch using a two-way radio (mobile/handheld).

Supervise and evaluate operator skill levels; plan, assign and review work during training and development; brief resources regarding project requirements and work processes; direct projects to ensure timely completion; identify problems and take corrective action.

Train District, contractor, utilities, and cooperator personnel in the technical aspects of work projects, operation and maintenance of tools, apparatus, and heavy equipment, and safety regulations and procedures; monitor and assess hazards and correct unsafe conditions; provide and maintain a "safety first" work environment; react quickly and appropriately in emergency situations and render medical assistance as needed.

Maintain assigned vehicles, tools, equipment; perform routine maintenance and repair; report vehicle or equipment failures.

Compile data and prepare records and reports related to equipment usage, maintenance and repair, project expenditures and billing; assist with managing and developing budgets; write project narrative reports.

Respond to wildland fires, floods, and other emergencies.

Control wildland fires; build hand lines, fall trees, lay hose lines and direct nozzles; lead dozers; set backfire; direct aerial drops; provide structural protection; and mop up and patrol fire areas to safeguard life, natural resources and structures.

Develops apparatus maintenance and repair programs; supervises and oversees personnel in the inspection, preventive and general maintenance, repair, and replacement of equipment and apparatus of fire apparatus and equipment; coordinates maintenance and repairs on fire tools and equipment; ensures all maintenance records are completed and filed; develops and applies fleet management programs, writes apparatus and equipment specifications; oversees and implements purchasing of fire apparatus and equipment.

Maintain fire apparatus and equipment to ensure constant readiness; make daily inspections and follow preventive maintenance schedules; check, clean, sharpen, adjust and make minor repairs to equipment; report mechanical problems and arrange for repairs; replace used equipment and supplies; ensure all equipment is returned to its proper place.

Document and track all inspections, repairs, and services performed on agency cooperator and utilities vehicles and equipment; perform mechanical and safety inspections of vehicles and equipment for agency, county, utilities, contractors, and cooperators.

Maintain and track equipment inventories, maintenance records, scheduled and preventative maintenance, usage and production rates, and costs; place unsafe vehicles and equipment out-of-service until repairs are completed.

Operate and maintain fire apparatus (i.e., pump and hydraulic systems and emergency vehicles and equipment).

Operate, maintain and perform minor field repairs and daily maintenance to ensure good operating condition with equipment that includes but is not limited to bull dozers, masticators, skid steers, chippers, tracked chippers, cable yarders, fire engines, loaders, and excavators to combat, extinguish and prevent fires.

Assist in developing, formulating, and coordinating programs, policies and procedures related to areas such as resource management, safety and training, fleet and inventory management, and fire management.

Write and update policies and procedures related to vehicle and equipment used by District, cooperator, contractor, and vendor personnel across the state; write training curriculums and plans pertaining to vehicle and equipment use and evaluate/certify personnel in operation of specific equipment types.

Performs management and administrative duties related to emergency and non-emergency activities; participates in the development and implementation of goals, objectives, policies and procedures; develops, implements and administers assigned special projects and programs; prepares and presents various administrative and analytical reports, staff reports, and other necessary documents and correspondence; and maintains records.

Assists in preparation of the budget; maintains budgetary control over supplies and equipment.

Participates in, and serves on, committees related to the fire service and other District business; stays abreast of new trends and innovations in the field of fire suppression and prevention; attends meetings and training as required.

Drives fire apparatus and other emergency vehicles used in the transport of equipment and personnel in response to fire, rescue, and other public service alarms.

Performs various public information and public relations tasks and answer questions from the general public.

Writes reports of all fires and related emergency activities and reports concerning the use and condition of apparatus, related equipment, and supplies.

Stays abreast of new trends and innovations in education and training in the field of fire science.

Maintains fire stations and fleet of project equipment, completes daily inspections, schedules maintenance with mechanic staff, and maintains records of inspections/maintenance performed.

Participates in the training of current and new members of the crew.

Participates in project implementation, including but are not limited to fuels management projects, prescribed fire projects, and defensible space establishment/maintenance.

Responds to inquiries from the public.

Provide Basic Life Support as required.

Ensures work is performed in a safe and prudent manner.

JOB RELATED AND ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS

Full Performance *(These may be acquired on the job and are needed to perform the work assigned.)*

Knowledge of:

Policies and procedures of the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and federal, state, local partners and utilities.

Federal, state, and local laws pertaining to driving and handling of emergency and commercial vehicles.

Methods and procedures used in the operation of heavy equipment.

Operation and care of District specific heavy equipment.

Basic fire behavior and conditions.

Basic fuel management prescription components and practices.

Fire behavior in various weather conditions; fire suppression tactics applicable to wildland incidents; fire inspection and investigation procedures.

District and NV Energy Purchasing processes and requirements.

Fire line terminology required to communicate with other crew members.

Basic cardiac and basic trauma/life support treatment.

Geography of the district, including major streets, landmarks and water systems.

Goals, objectives, functions, protocol, staffing, and activity guidelines for the respective assigned program.

Basic principles of mechanics, hydraulics relating to fire apparatus and suppression equipment.

Skill to:

Operate the full scope of heavy equipment used by the District.

Ability to:

Plan, organize, and deploy personnel and equipment in highly complex emergency situations.

Train staff in work methods and procedures that promote a safe working environment for employees and others.

Evaluate programs to determine their effectiveness in meeting goals and objectives and develop and implement program modifications.

Interpret and apply regulations, policies, and procedures.

Maintain accurate records.

Entry Level *(Applicants will be screened for possession of these through written, oral, performance, or other evaluation methods.)*

Knowledge of:

Operation and care of a variety of equipment.

Proper safety protocols for operation of various equipment.

Applicable regulations, traffic laws, and safety precautions involved in equipment operation.

Work independently in the absence of direct supervision.

Principles and practices of work planning, coordination, and lead direction.

Forest harvest practices; fuels reduction practices; forest insects and diseases; land reclamation procedures including the use of plant materials and erosion control devices; repair and maintenance of fences; vegetation management including shrubs, trees and grass.

Basic purchasing policies and procedures.

Operation of computers including word processing, spreadsheet and database management software; recordkeeping methods; inventory control procedures.

Equipment systems and operation characteristics of light, medium, heavy, wheeled, and tracked specialized

equipment used in firefighting from a variety of manufacturers; methods, materials, tools and equipment used in the constructions, assembly, overhaul, repair, and adjustment of automotive and firefighting apparatuses; electrical and mechanical theories of design; safe working procedures and the proper use, storage, and disposal.

Project and time management techniques to complete assigned projects in a timely manner and meet deadlines.

Operation and maintenance of equipment.

Principles, use and limitations of basic mechanical tools.

Skill to:

Operate a variety of natural resource management tools and equipment including chainsaws, chippers, masticators and yarders.

Utilize power and hand tools.

Utilize firefighting tools and equipment.

Ability to:

Perform a variety of firefighting duties, methods utilizing tools and equipment.

Read and comprehend laws, regulations, policies, and procedures.

Operate assigned equipment within safety protocols.

Detect the need for repairs and make field adjustments.

Analyze situations quickly and reach logical conclusions in emergencies.

Plan, organize, and prioritize daily activities.

Maintain records and prepare reports.

Understand and follow oral and written directions.

Exercise emotional control and work in stressful situations.

Communicate effectively, in a clear, concise manner both orally and in writing, tailoring the message to the intended audience.

Establish and maintain effective working relationships with departmental personnel, other agencies, the public, and others contacted in the course of work.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Essential duties require the following physical skills and work environment.

Ability to operate apparatus including driving, pump operation, lifting and pulling hose and equipment. Ability to stand and walk for extended periods. Ability to hike, lift, bend, and carry heavy loads in mountainous terrain on steep slopes. Ability to lift up to 65 lbs. unassisted. Ability to frequently sit, stoop, bend, kneel, and climb. Corrected hearing and vision to normal range. Verbal communication and reading ability. Ability to work at considerable heights. Ability to perform sustained and vigorous activities in a variety of environmental conditions. Ability to tolerate exposure to extreme weather conditions, heat, fumes, smoke, pressurized water, and

chemicals.

All licenses and certifications are required to be kept current and maintained for continued employment.

Positions are required to work weekends and /or holidays and must be available for emergency and project assignments up to 18 days in duration in travel status.

Applicants will be required to undergo a background investigation prior to being considered for employment.

Applicants will be required to pass a thorough medical examination which may include, but not be limited to, a physical agility test prior to appointment and for continuing employment.

Pursuant to NRS 284.4066, all positions in this series have been identified as affecting public safety. Those offered employment in this class must submit to a pre-employment screening for controlled substances.

This class specification is used for classification, recruitment, and examination purposes. It is not to be considered a substitute for work performance standards.