

2011 SOPL PTB and Changes to SOPL Position Prerequisites Transition Plan May 19, 2011

Background: The SOPL position was created in June 2009 as an update to the FUM1/2 positions in response to the *2009 Guidance for Implementation of Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy*. The SOPL position retains the skills and experience of the FUM1/2 position in developing a course of actions for a long duration wildfire events, but does not have any incident command responsibilities. The SOPL position is responsible for developing a course of action on wildfires which may include both protection and resource benefit objectives, and the 2011 PTB reflects these roles and responsibilities.

Position Description: The primary task of this position is to coordinate the development of the course of action for long-duration wildland fires with protection and/or resource benefit objectives. The SOPL also provides technical expertise for the incident to meet Land Use Plan (LUP) and Fire Management Plan (FMP) objectives, including protection objectives.

Changes to the SOPL Position Task Book (PTB): The 2011 SOPL PTB has changed extensively to support the use of this position on all long-duration wildland fire incidents regardless of the objectives and strategies. The emphasis in the 2011 PTB is on the development of a course of action consistent with the land management objectives (including protection objectives) and a long-term risk assessment based on a comprehensive values inventory and long-term fire behavior predictions.

Changes to Qualification and Training Standards for the SOPL Position: Currently, the prerequisite experience for the SOPL position is RXB2 or DIVS. These requirements for the SOPL position do not ensure that the position receives adequate experience and training to develop management actions for both types of objectives as described in the new 2011 Position Task Book for the SOPL position. The following identifies the experience or training requirements associated with the position that will be effective upon release of the June 2011 PMS 310-1.

REQUIRED TRAINING

Advanced Fire Management Applications (S-482)
Annual Fireline Safety Refresher (RT-130)

OTHER TRAINING WHICH SUPPORTS DEVELOPMENT OF KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

Fire Program Management (M-581)
Introduction to Fire Effects (RX-310)
Smoke Management Techniques (RX-410)
Advanced Fire Effects (RX-510)
Fire in Ecosystem Management (M-580/FIEM)

REQUIRED EXPERIENCE

Must be qualified as a Division Supervisor (DIVS) and a Prescribed Fire Burn Boss Type 2 (RXB2)

PHYSICAL FITNESS LEVEL

Moderate

OTHER POSITION ASSIGNMENTS THAT WILL MAINTAIN CURRENCY

Prescribed Fire Burn Boss Type 1 and 2 (RXB2), Division Supervisor (DIVS), Incident Commander Type 3 (ICT3), Long Term Fire Analyst (LTAN), Prescribed Fire Manager Type 1 (RXM1)

Transition of SOPL Trainees:

All currently qualified SOPLs will remain qualified.

Any SOPL trainee who meets the prerequisite qualifications (RXB2 + DIVS) and training (S-580 or S-482 and RT-130) and who has initiated and partially completed a SOPL PTB prior to June 1, 2011 (date of new PTB) will be permitted to complete the existing PTB and submit it for certification.

Any SOPL trainee who has not completed tasks in the 2009 SOPL PTB prior to June 1, 2011 must initiate the 2011 SOPL PTB and meet the 2011 prerequisite experience (DIVS +RXB2).

SOPL trainees have the ability to initiate and complete the SOPL PTB before completing prerequisite courses. However, they must complete the prerequisite courses to be awarded the SOPL position.

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