

Specification for Class of

AVALANCHE CONTROL TECHNICIAN

Abolished Initially Effective January 13, 2006

Abolished Final Effective February 10, 2006

Definition: Performs a variety of basic weather observation and avalanche control tasks such as, but not limited to, recording wind speed and direction, air temperature, dew point and humidity, snow crystal classification; conducting snow pit investigations; install and service weather instrumentation; place and detonate explosives; diagram snow conditions.

Distinguishing Characteristics: The Avalanche Control Technician is the working level classification assigned persons successfully completing one full season as an Avalanche Control Trainee. Incumbents may perform assignments where little or no supervision is available. May be assigned transportation technician or maintenance technician work on an off-season basis.

Typical Work

Without direct supervision, records weather instrument readings including total interval, storm and 24-hour snow depths, wind speed direction, air and snow temperatures, dew point and humidity, snow crystal classification, and current weather conditions; conducts snow pit investigations;

Utilizing weather observations from instruments and other study plots, calculates and draws water equivalence, snow density, precipitation intensity, and snow strength diagrams;

Installs, services, and disassembles for maintenance, wind and temperature sensing equipment;

Places and explodes hand charges; maintains and fires recoilless rifles, avalancher;

Skis and climbs on mountain slopes to avalanche areas, carrying high explosives and detonators;

Drives snow vehicles and heavy equipment required to transport weapons, ammunition, and explosives;

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Installs weather instruments and maintains remote instrument transmission wiring;

Performs other work as required.

Knowledge and Abilities

Knowledge of: techniques of traveling and surviving in mountainous terrain under adverse weather conditions; ordnance weapons used in avalanche control; explosives handling and use; avalanche control methods; heavy equipment operation; radio equipment operation; principles of weather instrumentation; highway maintenance operations.

Ability to: handle ordnance weapons and explosives in a prudent and safe manner; operate snow vehicles and heavy equipment; ski in difficult terrain with loaded back pack; work effectively under difficult conditions; record weather data and maintain records.

Minimum Qualifications

High school graduation or GED certification and successful completion of one full season as an Avalanche Control Trainee.

OR

One year Ski Patrol or equivalent alpine work experience.

Note:

1. A Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Class B, H endorsement without air brake restriction is required.
2. A valid Washington State Explosives User's License is required.
3. Must have satisfactorily completed the U.S. Forest Service National Avalanche School and U.S. Army Gunnery School course.
4. Satisfactory physical condition as indicated by an agency approved physical examination and physical fatigue examination is required.
5. Must be able to ski advanced terrain in heavy snow and adverse weather, making parallel turns while carrying a

loaded pack weighing not less than 25 pounds; must be able to work at heights and when suspended by ropes.

6. Must provide personal skis and cold weather clothing

Special Note:

Employees shall be automatically advanced to Avalanche Control Technician upon successful completion of one year as an Avalanche Control Trainee which must include one full avalanche season. (One full avalanche season as identified in the minimum qualifications above is a period from December through March.)

New class: 7-10-75

Revised distinguishing characteristics and minimum qualifications:
2-9-79

Revised minimum qualifications: 7-15-79

Revised minimum qualifications and general revision: 1-11-80

Revised minimum qualifications: 9-18-89 (Effective 10-1-89)

Revised minimum qualifications: 4-10-92