

Specification for Class of

AVALANCHE CONTROL SUPERVISOR

Abolished Initially Effective January 13, 2006

Abolished Final Effective February 10, 2006

Definition: Supervises an avalanche control and observation team operating on a major mountain pass.

Distinguishing Characteristics: Serves as Chief Observer assigned to an avalanche control program on a major mountain pass; supervises, plans and accomplishes observations of snow and meteorological phenomena; gathers and records data for Avalanche Forecaster; makes avalanche control decisions. May be assigned transportation technician or maintenance technician work on an off-season basis.

Typical Work

Organizes and supervises weather data collection and avalanche control missions;

In coordination with Avalanche Forecaster, issues avalanche hazard warnings to control teams, Division Maintenance Superintendent, and Maintenance Supervisor;

Organizes training and develops new observation techniques and equipment;

Coordinates data transmission with other agencies and mountain passes;

Coordinates and develops plans for control operations;

Supervises construction of snow study plots;

Monitors storm activity and plots avalanche trends;

Supervises the installation and maintenance of all equipment used by an avalanche control team;

Trains highway maintenance personnel in snow safety and rescue procedure;

Performs other work as required.

Knowledge and Abilities

Knowledge of: principles of weather instrumentation and data gathering; general cause and effect of weather variables and their impact on avalanching; use, handling, firing and storage of ordnance weapons and explosives; cold weather safety and survival techniques; highway maintenance operations; radio equipment operation; techniques of supervision.

Ability to: work effectively under difficult physical and environmental conditions; coordinate activities with other supervisors; ski in difficult terrain with loaded back pack; interpret weather data and maintain records; handle ordnance weapons and explosives with safety and discretion; operate snow vehicles and other heavy equipment.

Minimum Qualifications

Two seasons assigned full-time Avalanche Control Technician work.

OR

A Bachelor's degree with major study in a physical science and one season as a full-time Avalanche Control Technician.

Note:

1. A valid driver's license is required. A Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Class B, with endorsement H and without air brakes restriction must be obtained within the first six months of employment.
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 courses.
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.

New class: 7-10-75

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

Revised minimum qualifications: 10-18-89