

**Forest Ranger 1****Nature of Work**

Under general supervision, performs full-performance level work involving responsibility for wildfire prevention, control and suppression activities in a designated geographic area. Will be responsible for establishing and maintaining a network of employees for emergencies. May assist district personnel with landowner requests on forestry practices, timber marking, disease or insect control measures, and provides forest management and timber marking services on state-owned properties. Performs related work as required.

**Distinguishing Characteristics**

This class is distinguished by its full-performance level work and is assigned to county or project units with limited supervision. This is not a limited time (trainee) class; movement to Forest Ranger 2 is based on assigned duties.

**Examples of Work**

- Recruits, trains and maintains a volunteer network of community firefighters, mobilizing and directing wardens and crews in response to wildfires under potentially hazardous conditions, over rugged terrain, and often requiring extended periods of duty.
- Recruits, trains and supervises employees during established fire seasons.
- Promotes public awareness through speaking engagements, slide programs, exhibits and displays of forest resource use and protection programs.
- Prepares and distributes information to the media.
- Prepares payrolls, reports, and statistics.
- Evaluates requests for/and issues industrial burning permits.
- Performs inspections, makes recommendations or directs measures required to contain fires in refuse disposal areas and in underground seams of coal, and in designated areas along railroad right-of-ways to prevent fire occurrence.

**Knowledge, Skills and Abilities**

- Knowledge of the methods and techniques of wildfire prevention, control and suppression.
- Knowledge of practices and techniques of forest protection and fire management.
- Knowledge of first-aid procedures.
- Ability to establish and maintain good work relationships.
- Ability to develop and coordinate a wildfire suppression and control program.

**Forest Ranger 1 - cont'd.**

**Knowledge, Skills and Abilities - cont'd.**

Ability to prepare and present oral, written and visual materials for information and education of interest groups.  
Ability to perform manual and light maintenance work.  
Ability to interpret, use and update topographic, soil, and field maps.  
Ability to prepare reports and keep records.  
Ability to use computer.

**Minimum Qualifications**

**TRAINING:** Graduation from an accredited college or university with an associate degree in a Forest Technology program recognized by the Society of American Foresters OR a Bachelor of Science degree in a forestry program accredited by the Society of American Foresters.

**EXPERIENCE:** One year of full-time or equivalent part-time paid experience in the field of wildfire prevention or control or natural resources law enforcement and investigations.

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:** Must be licensed or eligible to be licensed to operate a motor vehicle in West Virginia. Must be able to pass physical examination prior to appointment. Must have a current license as a registered professional forester or a registered forestry technician or obtain professional licensure upon employment with the Division of Forestry.

Positions with forest fire control and/or logging regulation responsibility must meet the qualifications for and become a Special Conservation Officer at the earliest opportunity following employment and maintain this commission throughout the period of employment in the position.

Established: 9/16/93  
Revised: 7/20/95, 6/23/99, 11/18/03  
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