



## IDENTIFICATION

Department	Position Title	
Environment and Climate Change	Tower Person	
Position Number	Community	Division/Region
23-9186	Fort Simpson	Dehcho

## PURPOSE OF THE POSITION

To provide support services by maintaining surveillance for fires over specific geographical areas, taking, and reporting weather readings, and assisting with radio communications.

## SCOPE

The position is located at the Department of Environment and Climate Change office in Fort Simpson and reports to the Manager, Forestry Operations. The jobholder provides surveillance responsibilities in the area and reports information to appropriate personnel.

## RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1. Maintains a constant visual watch for forest fires for specific geographic area to facilitate rapid initial attack.**
  - Observing the area from a tower with binoculars and eyesight.
  - Pinpointing the exact location of suspected fires observed by use of judgement and maps.
  - Reporting suspected fires to Area Office by means of VHF, SSB, or FM radios and mobile phones.
  - Reporting all observed changes in character of forest fire and weather conditions.
- 2. Takes and compiles meteorological readings on a regular and irregular basis to provide weather information which will be used by headquarters to compile fire danger forecasts and assess weather patterns.**
  - Using specialized meteorological instruments (rain gauges, thermometers, wind gauges, fan psychrometer).
  - Using Cloud charts.
  - Relating data gathered to prepared charts to determine fire weather index.



- Passing information into area and district offices via radio.
- Notifying supervisor(s) immediately of any definite weather pattern changes, (e.g., passing thunderstorm).

**3. Performs a variety of general laboring tasks during periods when tower is inaccessible or where fire danger or rating does not warrant the presence of a tower lookout.**

- Doing minor carpentry duties on departmental buildings and equipment at locations other than the tower or vicinity.
- Repairing fire suppression equipment (hoses, pumps, shovels, axes, chainsaws).
- Mowing lawns and cultivating flower beds.
- Washing and cleaning vehicles.
- Using picks and shovels to dig holes, trenches, move rocks and trees.

**4. Operates VHF, SSB, FM radios, and mobile telephones to relay messages between tower and Department personnel in the immediate area.**

- Passing all messages with accuracy and promptness.
- Immediately advising message's originator if message has or has not been sent and if not, requesting further instructions.
- Ensuring all transmissions are recorded in radio logbook and dispatched to addressee: ensuring radios are on and can be heard at all times.
- Testing radio antennas and batteries daily to ensure they are in proper working order.
- Maintaining contact with contract aircraft and monitoring their positions while in the area.

**5. Maintains tower, immediate ground and living quarters to acceptable level.**

- Painting structures as required.
- Ensuring the tower and quarters are kept clean.
- Cutting grass as required.
- Removing small brush from and near helipads, weather stations and immediate grounds.
- Ensuring battery generator is in good repair, by changing oil, making minor repairs.
- Replacing or tightening bolts on tower structure as required.

## **WORKING CONDITIONS**

### **Physical Demands**

Working extended hours, traveling extensively and being on standby for extended periods of time in accordance with operational plans for the NWT Fire Season (nominally from April 1 to September 30 each year).



A level of physical fitness is required that will permit the incumbent to exert strenuous physical effort while engaged in wildland fire suppression activity or in traveling in the bush.

### **Environmental Conditions**

In low hazard, duties will be performed in the proximity of Regional or Area Office in a normal environment. Fire suppression duties are typically carried out in an environment subject to intense smoke, heat, insects, variable weather, and difficult terrain.

### **Sensory Demands**

The work requires a high level of continuous attention under sometimes considerable stress to assess firefighting requirements, assisting with organizing, and directing firefighters and aircraft in the field.

### **Mental Demands**

During busy fire periods, there is pressure to read and react to changing situations. This includes Supporting crew members during suppression activities while being responsible for their safety, transport, feeding, etc. This can be extremely fatiguing. Stress level increases the larger the project fire. Being away from families and home communities adds extra stress to the incumbent.

### **KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES**

- Sufficient understanding of tower duties to carry out detailed instructions.
- Understanding of tower operating instructions and routines.
- Some experience in general maintenance.
- Commit to actively upholding and consistently practicing personal diversity, inclusion, and cultural awareness, as well as safety and sensitivity approaches in the workplace.

### **Typically, the above qualifications would be attained by:**

Education - Grade 10 plus some training in the operation of weather reading instruments, radios, firefighting, and cloud formations.

Equivalent combinations of education and experience will be considered.

### **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

#### **Position Security (check one)**

- No criminal records check required.
- Position of Trust – criminal records check required.
- Highly sensitive position – requires verification of identity and a criminal records check.



**French language** (check one if applicable)

French required (must identify required level below)

Level required for this Designated Position is:

ORAL EXPRESSION AND COMPREHENSION

Basic (B)  Intermediate (I)  Advanced (A)

READING COMPREHENSION:

Basic (B)  Intermediate (I)  Advanced (A)

WRITING SKILLS:

Basic (B)  Intermediate (I)  Advanced (A)

French preferred

**Indigenous language:** Select language

Required

Preferred