

Kansas Forest Service Fire Protection Specialist Position

Overview:

The Fire Protection Specialist (FPS) is a position within the Kansas Forest Service (KFS) Fire Program that provides an opportunity to individuals that are available to assist the KFS fire program when needed. An FPS may assist in-state with suppression, training, incident support or prescribed burns. They also may be deployed nationally to fill positions that they are NWCG (National Wildfire Coordinating Group) qualified for, or as a trainee. The FPS positions are not full-time positions, rather a paid call-when-needed position. KFS will provide some support, personal protective equipment, and tools to Fire Protection Specialists, however they are to be predominantly self-sufficient.

Expectations:

The Kansas Forest Service has limited FPS roster spots available. It is expected that each FPS commits to at least one 14-day national deployment. These deployments do not include travel days, therefore 14-day assignments could be 18 to 21 days once travel is included. It is also expected that FPS' will be available for in-state wildfire suppression or prescribed burn opportunities throughout the year. In-state opportunities are typically 1–5-day commitments. It is understood that wildfires and KFS fire programs needs may not always align with busy schedules, and FPS' are not expected to be available for every call. However, the expectation is that FPS positions will be filled with individuals that can assist in-state and nationally when available.

The Kansas Forest Service holds an Annual Fire Staff Meeting and Refresher Training each year the last weekend of January. All Fire Protection Specialists are required to attend. New hire on-boarding and hiring paperwork will be completed and an overview of the fire program and how it relates to your NWCG position. FPS Staff will receive pay and travel (with some limitations) compensation for the Fire Business Meeting portion of the Annual Staff Meeting.

Application Process:

Provide a cover letter and resume to the Fire Business Specialist (see contact information below) by October 3, 2025. Please include your contact information; outline your work experience; your availability during Kansas fire season; summer availability for a 14–21-day assignment; current NWCG qualifications and/or areas of Incident Command System (ICS) interest.

Application period closes on October 17, 2025. Applications will be reviewed in November, selections made, and all applicants will be contacted about their status by the end of December.

For more information, please contact:

KFS Fire Duty Officer

785-532-3321

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