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NATIONAL SMOKEJUMPER TRAINING GUIDE – USFS – 2008

INTRODUCTION

The intent of the National Smokejumper Training Guide is to provide a broad, flexible, yet standardized, instructional package for the training of smokejumper personnel.

This Guide has been developed to train both the inexperienced and experienced smokejumper. Where applicable, performance based objectives, tasks, and skill levels are defined in the lesson plans. The primary criterion for qualification as a smokejumper is individual performance as observed by an evaluator using the standards set forth in this Guide.

Each Smokejumper Base is responsible for adapting the lesson plans to fit their organizational, geographic, and unique training environment.

Objectives:

The overall objectives of the National Smokejumper Training Guide are to:

1. Train smokejumper personnel according to the principles and policies outlined in the U.S. Forest Service Smokejumper Operations Guide and other Handbooks and Manuals which govern the smokejumper program.
2. Improve the quality of smokejumper training and instruction by providing the best training and reference information available.
3. Develop a minimal level of competence in smokejumping and firefighting skills.
4. Standardize smokejumper training so the smokejumper can operate effectively regardless of location.

Evidence of satisfactory performance will be demonstrated by the trainee's performance at the conclusion of each lesson as measured against the specific lesson objective(s), and by the trainee's performance on actual smokejumper missions.

Use of This Guide:

To facilitate its use, this Guide has been divided into three units:

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| Unit 1. | Program Introduction |
| Unit 2. | Parachute Training |
| Unit 3. | Specialized Training |

The Training Guide can be easily updated by inserting a revised or new lesson and discarding the outdated one.

In order to help standardize and improve instruction, each lesson plan is presented in a standard approved format. Each plan is in an outlined format so that each base can further develop their own materials and maintain flexibility within their unit.

As you develop better techniques, equipment, and procedures, you are encouraged to share your ideas with other unit. Your input should be brought to the attention of the appropriate officials through your unit, through smokejumper workshops, and through MTDC.

Instructor Qualifications:

Instructors are generally drawn from squadleaders and overhead personnel with expertise in certain areas. Occasionally, non-supervisory smokejumpers with special knowledge and skills may be used as instructors. For some topics, personnel from outside the smokejumper organization may serve as instructors.