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NATIONAL SMOKEJUMPER TRAINING GUIDE – USFS – 2001

INTRODUCTION

The intent of the National Smokejumper Training Guide is to provide a broad, flexible, but yet standardized, instructional package to be used for the instruction of smokejumper and supervisory smokejumper personnel.

This Guide has been developed to train both the inexperienced smokejumper and the experienced smokejumper. Primarily, the Parachute Training lesson plans are designed to train the inexperienced smokejumper giving performance based objectives that each one must meet or exceed to achieve the status of a qualified smokejumper. However, the guide also has performance based elements for the experienced smokejumper that must be met prior to exiting the aircraft for refresher training.

It is recognized that each smokejumper unit is unique, due to its size, organization, geography, etc. Hopefully, the lesson plans are flexible enough to meet the particular situation of each smokejumper unit.

Objectives:

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

1. Train the inexperienced jumper 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. Refresh/retrain the returning smokejumpers under the same principles and policies so that they are fully qualified to once again perform as smokejumper firefighters.
2. Improve the quality of smokejumper training and instruction by presenting 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:

- 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The Training Guide can be easily updated by inserting a revised or new lesson and discarding the outdated one.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 for inexperienced and experienced smokejumpers and spotter training 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.

