

As the River Rescue Specialist, you will provide river rescue services for the Airports Authority.

JOB DESCRIPTION

- River Rescue Specialist
- Works under general supervision of the River Rescue Manager.
- Serves in the Fire and Rescue Department of the Office of Public Safety (Office) at Ronald Reagan National Airport.

Responds to calls for service, provides training for boat crewmembers, and performs related rescue functions on waterways while serving as the sole River Rescue Specialist on duty. Performs related functions.

GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- Responds to all types of water situations, routine and emergency, including aircraft, boating and swimming accidents. Serves as on-scene commander until relieved; coordinates the work of the response crew, rescues people, provides emergency medical services (EMS) as an EMS First Responder, and assists in containing fuel spills, etc.
- Develops training materials and provides training for Firefighters on crewmember responsibilities during all river rescue-related activities. Schedules and documents initial and refresher training. Evaluates all Firefighters on their knowledge and skills in seamanship including requisite boating regulations and water rescue procedures.
- Keeps abreast of waterway issues that affect navigation and water rescue responses. Attends in-service training to maintain proficiency and improve skills in boat operation, equipment maintenance and water rescue, including aircraft familiarization.
- Conducts regular inspections of boats, water rescue equipment and boathouse facilities; notes and reports all discrepancies. Helps schedule and coordinate routine equipment and facility maintenance and emergency repair activities using work order requests.
- Represents the Airports Authority at business meetings and multi-jurisdictional sessions to help plan interagency emergency drills/responses and to maintain contact with other local mutual aid organizations. Conducts demonstrations for dignitaries and the general public.
- Documents all current and proposed operational activities and briefs next shift.
- Performs other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Four years of progressively responsible experience in Search and Rescue boat operations including:
 - handling boats (greater than 20') in all types of waterways and weather;
 - navigating in reduced visibility using electronic aids; and
 - producing instructional materials and facilitating classroom training.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES

1. Ability to work independently and without direct supervision.
 2. Knowledge of and skill in water search and rescue tactics, techniques, apparatus, procedures, equipment, tools and materials. This includes knowledge of USCG regulations.
 3. Skill in the proper handling of small boats and navigation techniques to provide training in small boat handling and navigation procedures.
 4. Skill in training Firefighters in water search and rescue operations.
 5. Knowledge of small boat and boathouse maintenance and repairs to perform operator-level maintenance and housekeeping.
- Ability to establish and maintain effective relationships with employees and the general public, and to maintain emotional control in emergency situations.
 - Ability to use computer hardware and modern office suite software for reporting maintenance and repair requests, time and attendance reporting and other functions.
 - Ability to speak and write effectively.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS

- United States Coast Guard (USCG) Coxswain Certification or a fully equivalent certification.
- USCG Deck Watch Officer Certification or a fully equivalent certification.
- USCG Captains License.
- Emergency Vehicle Operators Certification.
- Emergency Medical Technician – First Responder (EMR) Certification.
- Airboat handling experience in shallow water and ice conditions.

EDUCATION

- A high school diploma, a Certificate of General Educational Development (GED), or an equivalent combination of education, experience, and training.

CERTIFICATIONS AND LICENSES REQUIRED

- A state driver's license in good standing.

NECESSARY SPECIAL FACTORS

- Operates vehicle airside and landside (requires AOA permit).
- Must be able to work under pressure and maintain emotional self-control during emergencies, critical incidents and other situations.
- Core functions require heavy physical effort; uses strength, balancing, lifting, crouching, etc.
- Operates boats during inclement weather resulting in rough water conditions. Must maneuver through water and ice for rescue/recovery efforts in emergent and training situations.
- Must wear appropriate personal protective equipment to include Dry Suit, Anti-Exposure Coveralls and Personal Flotation Device and enter water in all conditions.

- Is subject to significant potential for serious injury from falls, over-exposure or hypothermia and other conditions.
- Works day, evening, or night shift, which may include weekends. Is subject to holdover and recall for essential services, emergencies, and other reasons.
- Subject to one-time and recurring training, certification and other requirements and standards mandated by the Commonwealth of Virginia and other proper authority.
- Work is typically reviewed in progress and upon completion for quality, quantity, timeliness, teamwork, customer service, and other factors.