TEXAS A&M FOREST SERVICE
TASK BOOK FOR THE POSITION OF:

HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR

DOZER OPERATOR (DZOP)
TRACTOR PLOW OPERATOR (TPOP)
MOTOR GRADER OPERATOR (MGOP)

[Circle Trainee Position]

June 2022

_____
TASK BOOK ASSIGNED TO: (INDIVIDUAL'S NAME)

_____
DUTY STATION, AND PHONE NUMBER

_____
TASK BOOK INITIATED BY: (OFFICIAL'S NAME, TITLE)

_____
DUTY STATION, AND PHONE NUMBER

_____
LOCATION AND DATE THAT TASK BOOK WAS INITIATED

The material contained in this book accurately defines the performance expected of the position for which it was developed. This task book is approved for use as a position qualification document in accordance with the instructions contained herein.

EVALUATOR(s): Do not complete this unless you are recommending the trainee for certification.

VERIFICATION/CERTIFICATION OF COMPLETED TASK BOOK FOR THE POSITION OF:

DOZER OPERATOR

FINAL EVALUATOR'S* VERIFICATION**

I verify that all tasks have been performed and are documented with appropriate initials.

I also verify that_____ has performed as a trainee and should therefore be considered for certification in this position.

_____
FINAL EVALUATOR'S SIGNATURE AND DATE

_____
EVALUATOR'S PRINTED NAME, TITLE,

_____
DUTY STATION, AND PHONE NUMBER

When completed, this task book should be sent to Texas Interagency Coordination Center for agency certification.

AGENCY CERTIFICATION

I certify that_____ has met all requirements for qualification in this position and that such qualification has been issued.

_____
CERTIFYING OFFICIAL'S SIGNATURE AND DATE

_____
CERTIFYING OFFICIAL'S NAME, TITLE

_____
DUTY STATION, AND PHONE NUMBER

*** Only individuals with proven skills as fireline heavy equipment operators who are considered to be **Subject Matter Experts (SME)**, will be authorized to complete the **Final Evaluators** section of this Position Task Book. Individuals currently certified as TFS operators can complete the "Evaluators Responsibilities" as listed below but the final certification can only be completed by management approved individuals. The names of these approved "Final Evaluators" for the Texas A&M Forest Service Heavy Equipment Operator Position Task Book can be found in the back of the task book or by contacting the Texas Interagency Coordination Center (**TICC**).

Included in the task book are four evaluator pages; this should not be interpreted as only four signatures are required to be certified as an operator. Additional evaluator pages should be included so that the individual can thoroughly complete every task. It is to the benefit of the individual to have numerous assignments to build an experience base. This task book can be initiated at any time, minimum red carded as FFT2, in conjunction with any other open NWCG task books. This task book does not limit on what an individual can open. At a minimum, 40 hours of equipment time is required to be considered for Dozer Operator (DZOP) certification. This time does not include transport hours.

EVALUATOR(s): Do not complete this unless you are recommending the trainee for certification.

VERIFICATION/CERTIFICATION OF COMPLETED TASK BOOK FOR THE POSITION OF:

TRACTOR PLOW OPERATOR

FINAL EVALUATOR'S* VERIFICATION**

I verify that all tasks have been performed and are documented with appropriate initials.

I also verify that_____ has performed as a trainee and should therefore be considered for certification in this position.

_____
FINAL EVALUATOR'S SIGNATURE AND DATE

_____
EVALUATOR'S PRINTED NAME, TITLE,

_____
DUTY STATION, AND PHONE NUMBER

When completed, this task book should be sent to Texas Interagency Coordination Center for agency certification.

AGENCY CERTIFICATION

I certify that_____ has met all requirements for qualification in this position and that such qualification has been issued.

_____
CERTIFYING OFFICIAL'S SIGNATURE AND DATE

_____
CERTIFYING OFFICIAL'S NAME, TITLE

_____
DUTY STATION, AND PHONE NUMBER

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EVALUATOR(s): Do not complete this unless you are recommending the trainee for certification.

VERIFICATION/CERTIFICATION OF COMPLETED TASK BOOK FOR THE POSITION OF:

MOTOR GRADER OPERATOR

FINAL EVALUATOR'S* VERIFICATION**

I verify that all tasks have been performed and are documented with appropriate initials.

I also verify that_____ has performed as a trainee and should therefore be considered for certification in this position.

_____
FINAL EVALUATOR'S SIGNATURE AND DATE

_____
EVALUATOR'S PRINTED NAME, TITLE,

_____
DUTY STATION, AND PHONE NUMBER

When completed, this task book should be sent to Texas Interagency Coordination Center for agency certification.

AGENCY CERTIFICATION

I certify that_____ has met all requirements for qualification in this position and that such qualification has been issued.

_____
CERTIFYING OFFICIAL'S SIGNATURE AND DATE

_____
CERTIFYING OFFICIAL'S NAME, TITLE

_____
DUTY STATION, AND PHONE NUMBER

*** Only individuals with proven skills as fireline heavy equipment operators who are considered to be **Subject Matter Experts (SME)**, will be authorized to complete the **Final Evaluators** section of this Position Task Book. Individuals currently certified as TFS operators can complete the "Evaluators Responsibilities" as listed below but the final certification can only be completed by management approved individuals. The names of these approved "Final Evaluators" for the Texas A&M Forest Service Heavy Equipment Operator Position Task Book can be found in the back of the task book or by contacting the Texas Interagency Coordination Center (**TICC**).

Included in the task book are four evaluator pages; this should not be interpreted as only four signatures are required to be certified as an operator. Additional evaluator pages should be included so that the individual can thoroughly complete every task. It is to the benefit of the individual to have numerous assignments to build an experience base. This task book can be initiated at any time, minimum red carded as FFT2, in conjunction with any other open NWCG task books. This task book does not limit on what an individual can open. At a minimum, 20 hours of equipment time and motor grader simulator training is required to be considered for Motor Grader Operator (MGOP) certification. This time does not include transport hours.

TEXAS A&M FOREST SERVICE
POSITION TASK BOOK

Position Task Books (PTB) have been developed for designated positions within the National Interagency Incident Management System. Each PTB lists the performance requirements (tasks) for the specific position in a format that allows a trainee to be evaluated against written guidelines. Successful performance of all tasks, as observed and recorded by an evaluator, will result in a recommendation to the agency that the trainee be certified in that position.

Evaluation and confirmation of the trainee's performance of all the tasks may involve more than one evaluator and can occur on incidents, in classroom simulation, and in other work situations. Designated PTBs require position performance during which the majority of required tasks are demonstrated on a single wildland or prescribed fire. Some positions require that specific tasks be performed on a wildland fire. Performance of these tasks on other kinds of incidents is NOT qualifying. It is important that performance be critically evaluated and accurately recorded by each evaluator.

The bullets under each numbered task are examples or indicators of items or actions related to the task. The purpose of the bullets is to assist the evaluator in evaluating the trainee; the bullets are not all-inclusive. Evaluate and initial ONLY the numbered tasks. DO NOT evaluate and initial each individual bullet.

RESPONSIBILITIES:
The **Home Unit** is responsible for:

- Selecting trainees based on the needs of the home unit and higher levels.
- Ensuring that the trainee meets the training and experience requirements included in the Wildland and Prescribed Fire Qualification Guide 310-1.
- Initiating PTBs to document task performance.
- Explaining to the trainee the purpose and processes of the PTB as well as the trainee's responsibilities.
- Providing opportunities for evaluation and/or making the trainee available for evaluation.
- Providing an evaluator for local assignments.
- Tracking progress of the trainee.
- Confirming PTB completion.
- Determining certification per local policy.
- Issuing proof of certification

The **Trainee** is responsible for:

- Reviewing and understanding instructions in the PTB.
- Identifying desired objectives/goals.
- Providing background information to an evaluator.
- Satisfactorily demonstrating completion of all tasks for an assigned position within three years.
- Assuring the Evaluation Record is complete.
- Notifying home unit personnel when the PTB is completed and providing a copy.
- Keeping the original PTB in personal records.

An **Evaluator** is responsible for:

- Understanding the Wildland and Prescribed Fire Qualifications System.
- Being qualified and proficient in the position being evaluated or supervising the position being evaluated.
- Meeting with the trainee and determining past experience, current qualifications, and desired objectives/goals.
- Reviewing tasks with the trainee.
- Explaining to the trainee the evaluation procedures that will be utilized and which objectives may be attained.
- Identifying tasks to be performed during the evaluation period.
- Accurately evaluating and recording demonstrated performance of tasks. Satisfactory performance shall be documented by dating and initialing completion of the task.
- Unsatisfactory performance shall be documented in the Evaluation Record.
- Completing the Evaluation Record found at the end of this PTB.

The **Final Evaluator,** which is required to be an individual listed at **TICC** is responsible for:

- Signing the verification statement inside the front cover of the PTB when all tasks have been initialed and if the trainee is recommended for certification.

An **Incident Training Specialist** is responsible for:

- Identifying incident evaluation opportunities.
- Assuring that trainees have met prerequisites.
- Identifying and assigning a qualified evaluator that can provide a positive experience for the trainee, and making an accurate and honest appraisal of the trainee's performance.
- Providing PTBs to approved trainees on the incident when home unit was unable to provide them.
- Documenting the assignment.
- Conducting progress reviews.
- Conducting a close-out interview with the trainee and evaluator and assuring that documentation is proper and complete.
- Notifying trainee's home unit.

HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR QUALIFICATIONS REQUIREMENTS

The Heavy Equipment Operator (HEO) wildland fire qualifications have the following characteristics:

- Capable of performing equipment inspections, preventative maintenance and completing related equipment records and operational logs as required by agency.
- Sufficiently trained to have demonstrated the required knowledge, skills, and abilities to operate equipment on wildland fires; taking necessary actions from initial dispatch through mop-up to effect containment on assigned fires within agency guidelines.

Required Training	TFS Heavy Equipment Operations
Suggested Training	None
Experience	Satisfactory position performance including position task book completion of HEO common tasks, sections pertaining to a specific operator status and agency qualification certification.
Physical Fitness	Agency Standards
Other Assignments That Will Maintain Currency	Firefighter Type 2; other operator status achieved (TPOP, DZOP, MGOP, TPIA, DZIA).

INCIDENT/EVENT CODING

Each task has a code associated with the type of training assignment where the task may be completed. The codes are: O = other, I = incident, W = wildfire, RX = prescribed fire, W/RX = wildfire OR prescribed fire and R = rare event. The codes are defined as:

O = Task can be completed in any situation (classroom, simulation, daily job, incident, prescribed fire, etc.)
I = Task must be performed on an incident managed under the Incident Command System (ICS). Examples include wildland fire, structural fire, oil spill, search and rescue, hazardous material, and an emergency or non-emergency (planned or unplanned) event.
W = Task must be performed on a wildfire incident.
RX = Task must be performed on a prescribed fire incident.
W/RX = Task must be performed on a wildfire OR prescribed fire incident.
R = Rare events such as accidents, injuries, vehicle or aircraft crashes occur infrequently and opportunities to evaluate performance in real setting are limited. The evaluator should determine, through interview, if the trainee would be able to perform the task in a real situation.

While tasks can be performed in any situation, they must be evaluated on the specific type of incident/event for which they are coded. For example, tasks coded W must be evaluated on a wildfire; tasks coded RX must be evaluated on a prescribed fire and so on. Performance of any task other than the designated assignment is not valid for qualification.

Common and Specific Tasks for Heavy Equipment Operators

This task book contains the tasks for all Heavy Equipment Operator (HEO) positions. The common tasks for DZOP and TPOP positions are listed first, followed by additional specific tasks for TPOP. The MGOP specific tasks are to be completed independently of the DZOP and TPOP tasks; DZOP and TPOP tasks are not required in order obtain the qualification of MGOP. The trainee needs to complete all tasks and training hours respective to the qualification in which they are trying to obtain.

COMMON TASKS FOR DZOP & TPOP

TASK	CODE	EVALUATION RECORD #	EVALUATOR: Initial & date upon completion of task.
1. Explain the need for and perform vehicle inspections, schedules, policies and supporting documentation. • Completes entries/information required in equip. records/logs, equipment inspection forms (review prior inspection forms the trainee has completed). • Demonstrate all "Daily Maintenance Checks" (DMC) on both transport and suppression unit • Radio operational checks • Performs and completes daily inspection form. • Completes mileage reports. • Explains use of gas cards. • Obtains necessary fuel and supplies to perform work. • Determines unit readiness for fireline duty; either day or night. • Notifies supervisor on corrective action needed for unit readiness. • Other miscellaneous agency policies or specifics on daily equipment checks and readiness standards.	O		

COMMON TASKS FOR DZOP & TPOP

TASK	CODE	EVALUATION RECORD #	EVALUATOR: Initial & date upon completion of task.
2. Explains / demonstrates equipment inspection points according to manufacturer's specifications or agency specific guidelines. Performs preventative maintenance checks and service on transport. • Electrical. Locations of fuses / circuit breakers, operations and functions of electrical switches in cab, alternator, starter, batteries, lights and overall wiring system of truck. • Cooling system capacities, correct mixtures, testing change schedule and procedures including disposal policy of used anti-freeze. • Engine components and system are checked and inspected for correct operations and visible problems including: belts, hoses, attachments, fuel capacities, oil filters, filter locations and service schedules / procedures for all engine fluids. (continued next page) • Is knowledgeable of the type of fluid, lubes, lubrication points, adjustments and maintenance requirements of transmission, axles, differentials, drive line components, tire pressures and tire wear indicators.	O		
3. Explains/demonstrates equipment inspection points according to manufactures specifications or agency specific guidelines and policies. Performs preventative maintenance checks and service on heavy equipment unit. • Inspects and corrects fuel, engine oil, transmission, cooling and hydraulic system fluid levels as needed. • Inspects and services all filter systems as required by operation or maintenance schedules to include: air, fuel, oil, cooling and hydraulic filter systems. • Inspects and adjusts all engine belts, hoses, mounting bolts, brackets, attachments, steering clutches, brakes, etc. • Inspects track system (or tires) and undercarriage components. Can point out how wear or problems are detected on track undercarriage components including: pins, bushings, track shoes, idlers, guides, rollers, sprockets, rails, etc. Correctly adjust track system. • Inspects, adjusts, services blade lubrication fittings, hydraulic hoses and connections. • Inspects electrical system: fuses, circuit breakers, lights, operations of switches and gauges. • Inspects all cutting blade edges.	O		

COMMON TASKS FOR DZOP & TPOP

TASK	CODE	EVALUATION RECORD #	EVALUATOR: Initial & date upon completion of task.
4. Demonstrates proficiency and acceptable level of training and skill in the operation of transport. • Prior to operation, fastens seat belt, checks parking brakes. Checks all gauges and listens for unusual engine noises after engine is started. Checks steering play, brake pedal, trailer brakes, horn, lights, wipers, mirrors, turn signals. • Adjust mobile radio for proper communications functions. • Builds proper air pressure and selects proper gear for starting. • Enters roadways and merges properly with traffic. • Demonstrates proper driving skills for all situations including proper use of gears, safe speeds, proper lanes and following distances, use of brakes, correct use of signals, passing other vehicles, drives defensively and safely. • Can utilize and interpret Dept. of Transportation highway maps, Agency specific area maps, and other maps as necessary to navigate to and from fire scenes. • Knowledgeable of Agency emergency light guidelines and accident reporting procedures. • Operates transport with headlights during use. • Observes and takes proper action regarding overhead clearances, bridge weight limits and trailer clearance (e.g. railroad crossings)	O		
5. Can perform requirements to unhook or hook up a tractor-trailer unit. • Secures and chocks trailer unit, properly supports unit with jack stands. • Disconnects air hoses, secures hoses and disconnects electrical connections. • Opens trailer release mechanism, checks for clearance, slowly pulls clear of trailer and checks unit after pulling clear. • Properly hooks up to trailer by checking that release mechanism is open, trailer is properly chocked and supported at correct height to make the connection. • Backs up and stops when tractor contacts trailer to see that trailer is secured against movement, connects brake lines and light wiring, checks proper brake line connections (not crossed), backs slowly under trailer until jaws lock and pulls against trailer to insure connection. • Properly removes supports, re-checks connections and pulls safely away with trailer.	O		

COMMON TASKS FOR DZOP & TPOP

TASK	CODE	EVALUATION RECORD #	EVALUATOR: Initial & date upon completion of task.
6. Describes the operation of the Tractor Operator Protection System and other extinguishing systems. • Describes how to properly operate the system. • Explains care for the unit. • Properly recharges the system.	O		
7. Proper use of portable and mobile multi-channel radio. • Demonstrates how to program. • Uses correct nomenclature. • Correctly prepares radio for operation. • Successfully completes radio check. • Selects proper channel. • Makes appropriate adjustments (squelch/volume). • Changes location to improve reception-transmission. • Protects radio from damage at all times. • Uses proper radio procedures and techniques.	O		
8. Complete truck driver training. • Obtains Commercial Driver's License. • Trains on agency transport types, sizes and transmissions appropriate for task. o Transport truck w/ bed ("Bobtail") o Transport (Medium duty) w/ pintle hook trailer o Transport (Semi-truck) w/ trailer o Transport (Semi-truck) w/ drop neck trailer o Automatic transmission o Manual transmissions	O		
9. Complete TFS Heavy Equipment Operations course.	O		
10. Demonstrate equipment operation. • Identifies controls and explains use. • Uses correct starting procedure. • Operates in forward and reverse gears. • Demonstrates use of the blade, winch or rippers. • Demonstrates proper use of decelerator. • Uses correct shut down and refueling procedure.	O		
11. Load and Unload equipment. • Demonstrates how to load and unload equipment from transport. • Secure equipment onto transport. • Use various types of transports and trailers.	O		

COMMON TASKS FOR DZOP & TPOP

TASK	CODE	EVALUATION RECORD #	EVALUATOR: Initial & date upon completion of task.
12. Be familiar with different attachment types and their purpose. Know how to operate and maintain these attachments • Straight blade • U / Semi-U blade • Shear blade • KG convertible blade • V-blade ("snow-plow" type) • VPAT folding blade • Fireline plow • Rippers • Winch	O		
13. Describe the benefits and problems with material placement. • List reasons for pushing material away from the fire. • List problems caused by pushing material away from the fire. • List reasons for pushing material toward the fire. • List problems caused by pushing material toward the fire.	O		
14. Review the compliment of tools and equipment on the unit. • Identifies which tools and equipment are carried on the unit. • Checks condition of assigned tools. • Safely sharpens and maintains assigned tools. • Properly secures and stores assigned tools.	O		
15. Obtain adequate personal protective equipment according to agency policy. • Describes the items of PPE required for fire suppression. • Explains care of Nomex clothing. • Ensure ground personnel have adequate lighting and reflective PPE.	O		
16. Secure transport and equipment. • Chains, binders, tools and toolboxes. • Coolers and all other cab mounted gear. • Ensure transport is parked clear of traffic. • Avoids parking under or over hazards.	O		
17. Maintain agency required physical fitness level for equipment operator. • Satisfactorily completes physical fitness test as required by agency.	O		

COMMON TASKS FOR DZOP & TPOP

TASK	CODE	EVALUATION RECORD #	EVALUATOR: Initial & date upon completion of task.
18. Familiar with how to evaluate fire shelter deployment locations and the process for fire shelter deployment. • Describes the correct procedure to select and prepare deployment site. • Discuss deployment options as conditions may very; include use of barriers, obstacles or equipment in the aid of survival. • Practice sheltering in cab, outside as a barrier and with a berm built in front of dozer, tractor plow and/or motor grader. • Practice maintaining communications with chain-of-command.	O		
19. Use of hand signals. • Demonstrate and explain heavy equipment hand signals, found in the Fireline Handbook PMS 410-1. • Mutual understanding between operator and ground personnel. • Use additional hand signals as required with mutual understanding.	O		
20. Review TFS safety standards. • Reviews TFS Safety Manual. • Gives the ten Standard Fire Orders. • Gives the "Watch Out" Situations. • Lists the four major common denominators of fire behavior on tragedy fires. • Explains LCES.	O		
21. Road inspection and traversing. • Know height and width of transport with equipment. • Use trailer adjustable ride heights if present. • Inspect railroad crossings and/or cattle guards to be crossed. • Know appropriate protocol of notification incase incident with transport occurs. • Describe how to get equipment unstuck without causing additional damage to any equipment.	O		
22. Identify fuel models in Texas. • Using the fireline handbook, identifies major fuel models. • Explains what fire behavior to expect in each model under given weather conditions. • Describes fuel situations which could produce extreme fire behavior.	O		
23. Uses established safety practices. • Identify dangerous situations which call for posting a lookout. • Identifies situations which warrant immediate action and/or reporting.	O		

COMMON TASKS FOR DZOP & TPOP

TASK	CODE	EVALUATION RECORD #	EVALUATOR: Initial & date upon completion of task.
24. Wildland fire investigation. • Designates and protects the area of fire origin. • Notifies supervisor of violation, if applicable.	O		
25. Administrative reporting. • Explains how to report damaged equipment. • Completes shift ticket. • Fuel and Oil Form	O		
26. Mobilization. • Obtains complete information from dispatch. • Notifies crew member and supervisor of fire assignment. • Travels safely to fire location. • Checks- in according to agency guidelines.	O		
27. Demonstrates safe and proficient operation of the assigned transport and dozer in wildland fuel type(s). • Sizes up fire area (scene) for safe parking area for transport unit. Parks in level/proper area, emergency brakes on, chocks unit if necessary, emergency lights on, transmission in low gear, windows rolled up, keys left in ignition. • Recognizes and establishes safe zone for transport truck if situation dictates. • Wears all required PPE. • Lowers loading ramps, supports, removes chains/binders, mounts truck bed and dozer in a safe manner. • Properly starts and warms up dozer. • Checks attachments, selects proper unloading gear and safely unloads dozer from trailer.	W/RX		
28. Identify special hazards associated with dozer operations. • Snags • Railroad crossings and right-of-ways • Pipelines, overhead lines, underground utilities • Fences • Limited visibility: light, smoke, dust • Creeks, washes, drainages, sand, mud • Cattle guards, gates and bump gates • Fire personnel and general public	O		

COMMON TASKS FOR DZOP & TPOP

TASK	CODE	EVALUATION RECORD #	EVALUATOR: Initial & date upon completion of task.
29. Size-up fire situation for initial attack. • Explains use of natural barriers. • Gathers initial data about the fire (location, access, size, fuels, etc). • Estimates rate of spread of the fire. • Determines potential threat to values. • Is able to obtain a fire weather information.	W/RX		
30. Can properly size-up fire situation for most effective use of dozer unit and placement of bladed firelines for successful initial attack. Incorporates principles of Fuels, Weather, Topography in strategy/tactics of fire suppression and recognizes hazardous situations and conditions. • Maintains communications with dispatch, supervisor and adjoining forces to adequately relate fire conditions, behavior, situation and progress. • Operates at proper speed and demonstrates capabilities of dozer unit for terrain and fuel conditions. • Avoids obstacles or improvements: Wet boggy areas, streams, logs, rocks, snags, damage to timber and natural resources, power lines, utilities, railroads, highway rights of way, hard surface roads, residential driveways, fences, landscaping around structures, septic tanks, etc. • Blades only as deep as necessary to insure clean firebreak. Checks firebreak often while blading and smooth out divots and excess fuel. • Positions and uses blade properly. • Is able to determine the path of least resistance and light fuels and the best routes for fireline placement. Utilizes natural barriers and incorporates into overall strategy when appropriate. • Effectively installs firelines from anchor points, along flanks, head, rear and entire fire perimeter to effect containment and stop spread. • Can identify and is aware of appropriate escape routes/safety zones for self, as well as dozer equipment. Constructs escape routes or safety zones when required by situation/fire behavior. • Demonstrates proper procedures for preparing to abandon a stalled dozer unit on a wildfire and the personal protective measures and equipment taken to move to a safe zone and prepare for fire shelter deployment.	W/RX		

COMMON TASKS FOR DZOP & TPOP

TASK	CODE	EVALUATION RECORD #	EVALUATOR: Initial & date upon completion of task.
31. Make direct attack on downwind flank, head, and upwind flank. • Explains direct attack methods. • Describes burning conditions when direct attack may be safely used. • Describes blading conditions when direct attack may be safely used. • Explains actions to take when using direct attack methods. • Constructs fireline safely, effectively, and to desired standards.	W		
32. Make indirect attack with and without firing. • Demonstrates indirect attack. • Explain when to use indirect attack. • Constructs fireline safely, effectively, and to desired standards. • Makes use of natural or man-made firebreaks.	W		
33. Construct dozer line on slopes to mitigate soil erosion. • Construct line down slope. • Construct line up slope. • Construct line side slope. • Turn around on a slope. • Frequent turn outs on lines.	I		
34. Working with other resources and cooperators. • Demonstrates the steps necessary in making an indirect attack using two dozers. • Demonstrates critical steps using two dozers, one on each flank. • Demonstrates steps involved when two dozers are making an indirect attack and blading from opposite directions. • Demonstrates the use of dozers blading in tandem. • Demonstrates working with other agencies and ground personnel. • Recognizes jurisdictional boundaries. • Receives tactical assignment from supervisor. • Maintains communication with other resources.	W/RX		
35. General ignition operation knowledge. • Explains backfiring and burning out in fire suppression. • Explains backfire as an indirect attack method against a rapidly spreading wildfire. • Explains burning out as a method for securing unburned areas of fuel. • Recognizes decisions are based on current and expected conditions. • Refer to Risk Management process in the IRPG.	O		

COMMON TASKS FOR DZOP & TPOP

TASK	CODE	EVALUATION RECORD #	EVALUATOR: Initial & date upon completion of task.
36. Night wildfire operations. • Lists safety concerns for fighting fire at night. • Demonstrates proper fireline construction at night. • Demonstrate proper loading and unloading at night. • Utilizes additional lightning as needed. • Ensures ground personnel maintain safe distance and communications. • Awareness of changing terrain and fuels.	O		
37. Construct fireline at night on a wildfire.	W		
38. Understanding field repairs. • Identifies some common problems. • Determines if the problem can be fixed in field or needs to be taken in for repair. • Demonstrates field repairs to a broken hose. • Demonstrates field repairs to a damaged fitting.	O		
39. Hazard avoidance and observance. Understand proper rescue/recovery of dozer. • Describes how to free a dozer stuck in mud. • Describes how to avoid getting hung up on obstacles. • Describes what to do if track comes off dozer. • Describes operations on steep and rocky slopes.	O		
40. Identify how to cross obstacles with a dozer. • Describes proper ways to cross railroad tracks. • Describes how to make a creek crossing. • Describes how to cross highways. • Demonstrates how to make fence crossing.	O		
41. Fireline must meet expectations. • All fuel cleared down to mineral soil. • Blade what is necessary without causing undue damage. • Fireline should be made for support vehicle (engines, etc.) maneuvering. • Use flagging on any fences cut for repair later. • Use Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics (MIST) when possible by cold trailing or using natural barriers.	W/RX		

COMMON TASKS FOR DZOP & TPOP

TASK	CODE	EVALUATION RECORD #	EVALUATOR: Initial & date upon completion of task.
42. Employs dozer, and other techniques to insure sufficient mop-up of fires to prevent escape. Re-habs firelines as necessary to minimize suppression damage, prevent erosion and adverse environmental effects of equipment operations. • Uses a systematic procedure for locating and suppressing remaining fire. • Progresses from hottest area to coolest area. • Safely pushes down or secures snags, which could threaten fires' control line. Secures area around snags that cannot be pushed down. • Removes and scatters hazard fuel accumulations close to firelines, smothers smoldering stumps, logs, hot spots, etc. • Uses all senses to find hot materials to be mopped up. • Constructs water bars according to best management practices guidelines.	W/RX		
43. Leaving the fire. • Completes ICS-214 Unit Log to provide record of actions and information for fire reporting as required by Agency guidelines. • Clear transport area of all unnecessary personnel. • Properly loads the dozer onto the transport and secures. • Fixes fences, gates, roads, or other things that may have been damaged in order for access. • Informs the supervisor of dozer status.	W/RX		
44. Return the equipment back for service. • Determines logistical needs and makes them known. • Services the transport and dozer back to readiness condition. • Inspects and corrects fuel, engine oil, transmission, cooling and hydraulic system fluid levels as needed. • Inspects and services all filter systems as required by operation or maintenance schedules to include: air, fuel, oil, cooling and hydraulic filter systems. • Inspects and adjusts all engine belts, hoses, mounting bolts, brackets, attachments, steering clutches, brakes, etc. • Inspects track system (or tires) and undercarriage components. Can point out how wear or problems are detected on track undercarriage components including: pins, bushings, track shoes, idlers, guides, rollers, sprockets, rails, etc. Correctly adjust track system. • Inspects, adjusts, services blade lubrication fittings, hydraulic hoses and connections. • Inspects electrical system: fuses, circuit breakers, lights, operations of switches and gauges. • Inspects all blade cutting edges.	W/RX		

TPOP SPECIFIC TASKS

TASK	CODE	EVALUATION RECORD #	EVALUATOR: Initial & date upon completion of task.
45. Construct tractor plow line to suppress active fireline. • Construct a single pass plow line • Construct line without sharp turns • Construct a multiple pass plow line, ensuring all lines are connected. • Reinforces constructed fireline or barrier with additional plow lines when necessary. • Demonstrates when and how to operate plow in the float and fixed position.	W/RX		
46. Rehab constructed plow line with blade. • Widen fireline based on fuel conditions and fire activity. • Incorporate water bars and wing ditches as necessary. • Mitigate soil erosion whenever possible.	W/RX		
47. Fireline must meet expectations. • Plow what is necessary without causing undue damage. • Ensure plow depth is adequate, adjust gauge if needed.	O		
48. Understanding tractor plow field repairs. • Identifies some common problems. • Determines if the problem can be fixed in field or needs to be taken in for repair. • Demonstrates field repairs to a broken hose. • Demonstrates field repairs to a damaged fitting. • Demonstrate how to lift and secure a broken plow in the field. • Demonstrate how to secure a broken plow if the locking mechanism is broken also. • Demonstrates how to replace damaged coulter and plow pans. • Demonstrate how to grease plow certs and inspects for wear.	O		
49. Hazard avoidance and observance. • Describes how to avoid getting plow hung up on obstacles.	O		

MOTOR GRADER OPERATOR (MGOP)

TASK	CODE	EVALUATION RECORD #	EVALUATOR: Initial & date upon completion of task.
50. To be eligible to operate any of the M-series joystick controlled Caterpillar motor graders, the operator trainee must take the CAT Motor Grader simulation training.	O		
51. Be familiar with different blade & attachment types and their purpose. Know how to operate and maintain these attachments. • Straight blade • Rippers	O		
52. Demonstrates safe and proficient operation of the assigned transport and motor grader in wildland fuel type(s). • Sizes up fire area (scene) for safe parking area for transport unit. Parks in level/proper area, emergency brakes on, chocks unit if necessary, emergency lights on, transmission in low gear, windows rolled up, keys left in ignition. • Recognizes and establishes safe zone for transport truck if situation dictates. • Wears all required PPE. • Lowers loading ramps, supports, removes chains/binders, mounts truck bed and motor grader in a safe manner. • Properly starts and warms up motor grader. • Checks attachments, selects proper unloading gear and safely unloads motor grader from trailer.	W/RX		
53. Identify special hazards associated with motor grader operations. • Snags • Railroad crossings and right-of-ways • Pipelines, overhead lines, underground utilities • Fences • Limited visibility: light, smoke, dust • Creeks, washes, drainages, sand, mud • Cattle guards, gates and bump gates • Fire personnel and general public	O		
54. Describe factors that limit the ability of a motor grader. • Working up slope, side or cross slope. • Material placement. • Mechanical advantage of blade angle. • Using gravity to assist material movement on slopes. • Avoid putting material up slope above drive tires when working side slope. • Describe safe practices when turning around on a slope. • Identify hazard of rollover when using frame steer on a slope.	O		

MOTOR GRADER OPERATOR (MGOP)

TASK	CODE	EVALUATION RECORD #	EVALUATOR: Initial & date upon completion of task.
55. Size-up fire situation for initial attack. • Explains use of natural barriers. • Gathers initial data about the fire (location, access, size, fuels, etc). • Estimates rate of spread of the fire. • Determines potential threat to values. • Is able to obtain a fire weather information.	W/RX		
56. Can properly size-up fire situation for most effective use of motor grader and placement of bladed firelines for successful initial attack. Incorporates principles of Fuels, Weather, Topography in strategy/tactics of fire suppression and recognizes hazardous situations and conditions. • Maintains communications with dispatch, supervisor and adjoining forces to adequately relate fire conditions, behavior, situation and progress. • Operates at proper speed and demonstrates capabilities of motor grader for terrain and fuel conditions. • Avoids obstacles or improvements: Wet boggy areas, streams, logs, rocks, snags, damage to timber and natural resources, power lines, utilities, railroads, highway rights of way, hard surface roads, residential driveways, fences, landscaping around structures, etc. • Avoids heavy brush that will damage motor grader. • Blades only as deep as necessary to insure clean firebreak. Checks firebreak often while blading and smooth out divots and excess fuel. • Positions and uses blade properly. • Is able to determine the path of least resistance and light fuels and the best routes for fireline placement. Utilizes natural barriers and incorporates into overall strategy when appropriate. • Effectively installs firelines from anchor points, along flanks, head, rear and entire fire perimeter to effect containment and stop spread. • Can identify and is aware of appropriate escape routes/safety zones for self, as well as motor grader equipment. Constructs escape routes or safety zones when required by situation/fire behavior. • Demonstrates proper procedures for preparing to abandon a stalled motor grader on a wildfire and the personal protective measures and equipment taken to move to a safe zone and prepare for fire shelter deployment.	W/RX		

MOTOR GRADER OPERATOR (MGOP)

TASK	CODE	EVALUATION RECORD #	EVALUATOR: Initial & date upon completion of task.
57. Make direct attack on downwind flank, head, and upwind flank. • Explains direct attack methods. • Describes burning conditions when direct attack may be safely used. • Describes blading conditions when direct attack may be safely used. • Explains actions to take when using direct attack methods. • Constructs fireline safely, effectively, and to desired standards.	W		
58. Make indirect attack with and without firing. • Demonstrates indirect attack. • Explain when to use indirect attack. • Constructs fireline safely, effectively, and to desired standards. • Makes use of natural or man-made firebreaks.	W		
59. Construct motor grader line on slopes to mitigate soil erosion. • Construct line down slope. • Construct line up slope. • Construct line side slope. • Turn around on a slope. • Frequent turn outs on plow lines.	I		
60. Working with other resources and cooperators. • Demonstrates the steps necessary in making an indirect attack using two suppression units. • Demonstrates critical steps using two suppression units, one on each flank. • Demonstrates steps involved when two suppression units are making an indirect attack and blading from opposite directions. • Demonstrates the use of blading in tandem. • Demonstrates working with other agencies and ground personnel. • Recognizes jurisdictional boundaries. • Receives tactical assignment from supervisor. • Maintains communication with other resources.	W/RX		
61. Demonstrate increasing production rates when using motor graders with dozers. • Utilize the best type of equipment to establish the initial line while using any needed equipment to improve the line as needed. • Use motor grader to improve existing line or construct safety zones when dozers have slow production in heavy brush or rocks.	W/RX		

MOTOR GRADER OPERATOR (MGOP)

TASK	CODE	EVALUATION RECORD #	EVALUATOR: Initial & date upon completion of task.
62. General ignition operation knowledge. • Explains backfiring and burning out in fire suppression. • Explains backfire as an indirect attack method against a rapidly spreading wildfire. • Explains burning out as a method for securing unburned areas of fuel. • Recognizes decisions are based on current and expected conditions. • Refer to Risk Management process in the IRPG.	O		
63. Night wildfire operations. • Lists safety concerns for fighting fire at night. • Demonstrates proper fireline construction at night. • Demonstrate proper loading and unloading at night. • Utilizes additional lightning as needed. • Ensures ground personnel maintain safe distance and communications. • Awareness of changing terrain and fuels.	O		
64. Construct fireline at night on a wildfire.	W		
65. Understanding field repairs. • Identifies some common problems. • Determines if the problem can be fixed in field or needs to be taken in for repair. • Demonstrates field repairs to a broken hose. • Demonstrates field repairs to a damaged fitting.	O		
66. Hazard avoidance and observance. • Describes how to free a motor grader stuck in mud. • Describes how to avoid getting hung up on obstacles. • Describes what to do if tire comes off motor grader. • Describes operations on steep and rocky slopes.	O		
67. Identify how to cross obstacles with a motor grader. • Describes proper ways to cross railroad tracks. • Describes how to make crossings in various terrain. • Describes how to cross highways. • Demonstrates how to make fence crossing.	O		
68. Fireline must meet expectations. • All fuel cleared down to mineral soil. • Blade what is necessary without causing undue damage. • Fireline should be made for support vehicle (engines, etc.) maneuvering. • Use flagging on any fences cut for repair later. • Use Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics (MIST) when possible by cold trailing or using natural barriers.	W/RX		

MOTOR GRADER OPERATOR (MGOP)

TASK	CODE	EVALUATION RECORD #	EVALUATOR: Initial & date upon completion of task.
69. Employs motor grader, and other techniques to insure sufficient mop-up of fires to prevent escape. Re-habs firelines as necessary to minimize suppression damage, prevent erosion and adverse environmental effects of equipment operations. • Uses a systematic procedure for locating and suppressing remaining fire. • Progresses from hottest area to coolest area. • Uses all senses to find hot materials to be mopped up. • Constructs water bars according to best management practices guidelines.	W/RX		
70. Leaving the fire. • Completes ICS-214 Unit Log to provide record of actions and information for fire reporting as required by Agency guidelines. • Clear transport area of all unnecessary personnel. • Properly loads the motor grader onto the transport and secures. • Fixes fences, gates, roads, or other things that may have been damaged in order for access. Informs the supervisor of motor grader status.	W/RX		
71. Return the equipment back for service. • Determines logistical needs and makes them known. • Services the transport and motor grader back to readiness condition. • Inspects and corrects fuel, engine oil, transmission, cooling and hydraulic system fluid levels as needed. • Inspects and services all filter systems as required by operation or maintenance schedules to include: air, fuel, oil, cooling and hydraulic filter systems. • Inspects and adjusts all engine belts, hoses, mounting bolts, brackets, attachments, etc. • Inspects, adjusts, services blade lubrication fittings, hydraulic hoses and connections. • Inspects electrical system: fuses, circuit breakers, lights, operations of switches and gauges. • Inspects all blade cutting edges. • Inspects condition of tires and lug nuts.	W/RX		

TRAINEE NAME:		TRAINEE POSITION:		
#___ Evaluator's name:		Incident/office title & agency:		
Evaluator's home unit address & phone:				
Name and Location of Incident or Simulation (agency & area)	Incident Kind (wildland fire, search & rescue, etc.)	Duration (inclusive dates in trainee status)	Management Level or Prescribed Fire Complexity Level	NFFL Fuel Model(s)
		to		

The tasks initialed & dated by me have been performed under my supervision in a satisfactory manner by the above named trainee. I recommend the following for further development of this trainee.

_____ The individual has successfully performed all tasks for the position and should be considered for certification.

_____ The individual was not able to complete certain tasks (comments below) or additional guidance is required.

_____ Not all tasks were evaluated on this assignment and an additional assignment is needed to complete the evaluation.

_____ The individual is severely deficient in the performance of tasks for the position and needs further training (both required & knowledge and skills needed) prior to additional assignment(s) as a trainee.

Recommendations:

Date:_____ Evaluator's initials:_____ Evaluator's Signature: _____

Evaluator's relevant red card (or agency certification) rating:

Equipment Operated for Qualification Check	
Type Tractor Plow (circle one): T1 (D7, JD850); T2 (D6, JD750, TD15); T3 (D5H, D4); T4 (JD650, D5K); T5 (JD550, JD450); T6 (JD450D, JD400, JD350)	Hours of operation:
Type Dozer (circle one): T1 (D8, D7, D6T, JD850); T2 (D6N, JD750, TD15, JD650K, D5); T3 (D4, JD650H, JD550, JD450)	Hours of operation:
Type Motor Grader (circle one): Steering wheel Joystick	Hours of operation:
Blade (circle type): Straight V-blade VPAT folding blade Shear KG convertible	Hours of operation:
Attachments (circle one): Rippers Winch	Hours of operation:
Transport (make/model):	Hours of operation:
Transport (circle one): Single axle Tandem axle	Hours of operation:
Type transmission (circle one): Automatic Manual: 6 speed, 10 speed, 13 speed	Hours of operation:
Trailer (make/model): Large trailer Pintle hook Drop neck trailer	Hours of operation:

TRAINEE NAME:		TRAINEE POSITION:		
#___ Evaluator's name:		Incident/office title & agency:		
Evaluator's home unit address & phone:				
Name and Location of Incident or Simulation (agency & area)	Incident Kind (wildland fire, search & rescue, etc.)	Duration (inclusive dates in trainee status)	Management Level or Prescribed Fire Complexity Level	NFFL Fuel Model(s)
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Date:_____ Evaluator's initials:_____ Evaluator's Signature: _____

Evaluator's relevant red card (or agency certification) rating:

Equipment Operated for Qualification Check	
Type Tractor Plow (circle one): T1 (D7, JD850); T2 (D6, JD750, TD15); T3 (D5H, D4); T4 (JD650, D5K); T5 (JD550, JD450); T6 (JD450D, JD400, JD350)	Hours of operation:
Type Dozer (circle one): T1 (D8, D7, D6T, JD850); T2 (D6N, JD750, TD15, JD650K, D5); T3 (D4, JD650H, JD550, JD450)	Hours of operation:
Type Motor Grader (circle one): Steering wheel Joystick	Hours of operation:
Blade (circle type): Straight V-blade VPAT folding blade Shear KG convertible	Hours of operation:
Attachments (circle one): Rippers Winch	Hours of operation:
Transport (make/model):	Hours of operation:
Transport (circle one): Single axle Tandem axle	Hours of operation:
Type transmission (circle one): Automatic Manual: 6 speed, 10 speed, 13 speed	Hours of operation:
Trailer (make/model): Large trailer Pintle hook Drop neck trailer	Hours of operation:

TRAINEE NAME:		TRAINEE POSITION:		
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Evaluator's home unit address & phone:				
Name and Location of Incident or Simulation (agency & area)	Incident Kind (wildland fire, search & rescue, etc.)	Duration (inclusive dates in trainee status)	Management Level or Prescribed Fire Complexity Level	NFFL Fuel Model(s)
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Recommendations:

Date:_____ Evaluator's initials:_____ Evaluator's Signature: _____

Evaluator's relevant red card (or agency certification) rating:

Equipment Operated for Qualification Check	
Type Tractor Plow (circle one): T1 (D7, JD850); T2 (D6, JD750, TD15); T3 (D5H, D4); T4 (JD650, D5K); T5 (JD550, JD450); T6 (JD450D, JD400, JD350)	Hours of operation:
Type Dozer (circle one): T1 (D8, D7, D6T, JD850); T2 (D6N, JD750, TD15, JD650K, D5); T3 (D4, JD650H, JD550, JD450)	Hours of operation:
Type Motor Grader (circle one): Steering wheel Joystick	Hours of operation:
Blade (circle type): Straight V-blade VPAT folding blade Shear KG convertible	Hours of operation:
Attachments (circle one): Rippers Winch	Hours of operation:
Transport (make/model):	Hours of operation:
Transport (circle one): Single axle Tandem axle	Hours of operation:
Type transmission (circle one): Automatic Manual: 6 speed, 10 speed, 13 speed	Hours of operation:
Trailer (make/model): Large trailer Pintle hook Drop neck trailer	Hours of operation:

TRAINEE NAME:		TRAINEE POSITION:		
#___ Evaluator's name:		Incident/office title & agency:		
Evaluator's home unit address & phone:				
Name and Location of Incident or Simulation (agency & area)	Incident Kind (wildland fire, search & rescue, etc.)	Duration (inclusive dates in trainee status)	Management Level or Prescribed Fire Complexity Level	NFFL Fuel Model(s)
		to		

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Recommendations:

Date:_____ Evaluator's initials:_____ Evaluator's Signature: _____

Evaluator's relevant red card (or agency certification) rating:

Equipment Operated for Qualification Check	
Type Tractor Plow (circle one): T1 (D7, JD850); T2 (D6, JD750, TD15); T3 (D5H, D4); T4 (JD650, D5K); T5 (JD550, JD450); T6 (JD450D, JD400, JD350)	Hours of operation:
Type Dozer (circle one): T1 (D8, D7, D6T, JD850); T2 (D6N, JD750, TD15, JD650K, D5); T3 (D4, JD650H, JD550, JD450)	Hours of operation:
Type Motor Grader (circle one): Steering wheel Joystick	Hours of operation:
Blade (circle type): Straight V-blade VPAT folding blade Shear KG convertible	Hours of operation:
Attachments (circle one): Rippers Winch	Hours of operation:
Transport (make/model):	Hours of operation:
Transport (circle one): Single axle Tandem axle	Hours of operation:
Type transmission (circle one): Automatic Manual: 6 speed, 10 speed, 13 speed	Hours of operation:
Trailer (make/model): Large trailer Pintle hook Drop neck trailer	Hours of operation:

Total Hours of Equipment Operation for Final Evaluation

(Refer to Texas Fire Response Handbook for additional Examples)

TRACTOR PLOW	**Total Hours of Operation:**
T1 (D7, JD850)	
T2 (D6, JD750, TD15)	
T3 (D5H, D4)	
T4 (JD650, D5K)	
T5 (JD550, JD450)	
T6 (JD450D, JD400, JD350)	
Total Tractor Plow Hours	
DOZER	**Total Hours of Operation:**
T1 (D8, D7, D6T, JD850)	
T2 (D6N, JD750, TD15, JD650K, D5)	
T3 (D4, JD650H, JD550, JD450)	
Total Dozer Hours	
MOTOR GRADER	**Total Hours of Operation:**
Steering Wheel	
Joystick	
Total Motor Grader Hours	

Total Hours of Transport Operation for Final Evaluation

TRANSPORTS	**Total Hours of Operation:**
Single Axle	
Double Axle	
Total Transport Hours	
TRANSMISSIONS	**Total Hours of Operation:**
Automatic	
Manual 6 Speed	
Manual 10 Speed	
Manual 13 Speed	
Total Transport Hours	
TRAILERS	**Total Hours of Operation:**
Large Trailer	
Pintle Hook Trailer	
Drop Neck Trailer	
Total Trailer Hours	

Texas A&M Forest Service employees will need to total all documented hours of equipment and driver operation from evaluation records and list here before the HEO task book is submitted to Training. This documentation better reflects the experience the trainee has gained during their development as an equipment operator.

Heavy Equipment Operations Final Evaluators
February 2023

Only individuals with proven skills as fireline heavy equipment operators and approval by Texas A&M Forest Service management will be authorized to complete the Final Evaluator section of this Position Task Book. Individuals seeking a final evaluator should try to use one listed in their respective Region/Branch when possible. Final Evaluators will document whether the trainee is competent in basic equipment operation or will need additional training opportunities. If additional training opportunities are needed, submission of this task book should be held until the final evaluator documents and recommends certification.

In addition to being a designated Heavy Equipment Operations Final Evaluator, a final evaluator must also be currently certified in the specific operator position they are evaluating. The operator positions that these final evaluators can finalize are noted next to their names below **(D=Dozer, T=Tractor Plow, M=Motor Grader)**

EAST TX OPERATIONS

North Region
Phillip Alexander DT
Craig Frazier DT
Jason Jones DT
Kevin Matthews DT
Jonathan Moore DT
Chad Wiley DT

Central Region
Dee Bell DT
Terance Corley DT
Charlie Ramsey DT
James Russell DT
Scott Taylor DT
Grant Thedford DT

South Region
Michael Carter DT
David Colton DT
John Gill DT
Teddy Heckman DT
Jim McCallie DT
Crockett Pegoda DT
Jimmie Primrose DT
Rusty Smith DT
Maynard Williams DT

INCIDENT RESPONSE DEPT

North Branch
John Fugitt DT
Matthew Schlaefer DT
Stephen Tanner D

East Branch
Matt Burnett DT
Cody Mayo DT
Dustin Morris D

Central Branch
Donnie Grauke DTM
Steve Willingham DT

South Branch
Randall Fuchs DT
Drew Liddell D

West Branch
Shane Crimm DM
Cody Lambert DM

Northwest Branch
Brad Henry DM
Charles Tice D
Jeff Webb D

Panhandle Branch
Jason Calvet DT
Kevin Daly DM
Michael Smith D

OTHER DEPTS

Michael Cunningham DT
Alan Fox DT
Mike Kuhnert DT
Josh Mizrany DT