

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT:

CHIEF AVIATION OFFICER, TEXAS A&M FOREST SERVICE

Are you ready to lead aviation operations for one of Texas's premier emergency response agencies? Texas A&M Forest Service—part of The Texas A&M University System—has been protecting and conserving the state's forests, natural resources, and communities since 1915. As a leader in wildfire response, the agency is seeking a dynamic and experienced Chief Aviation Officer to oversee its aviation department, ensuring strategic direction, operational excellence, and safety across all air operations.

Position Overview

The Chief Aviation Officer provides leadership and oversight for the agency's aviation program, including personnel, fleet, facilities, and budget. This role works closely with Fire & Emergency Response Division leadership to ensure rapid and effective response to wildfires and other emergencies across the state, supporting the agency's mission to serve and protect Texans.

Key Responsibilities

- Provide leadership and strategic planning to a dynamic and expanding program area
- Ensure compliance with federal, state, and agency safety and operational standards
- Manage all assigned resources and budget effectively

Required Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in aviation, fire science, emergency management, or applicable field of study
- 10 years of experience in fire and emergency response with a recognized response entity

Preferred Qualifications

- Master's degree in applicable field of study
- Qualified as NWCG Air Operations Branch Director
- Experience working with FAA

Additional Requirements

- Emergency response readiness, including travel and extended work hours
- Ability to lead teams, manage complex operations, and work cooperatively with others
- Familiarity with fire suppression aircraft, operations, and maintenance

Benefits

- Salary Range: \$120,000-\$168,000
- Competitive Benefits: <https://www.tamus.edu/benefits/>



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