

reliability & innovation

Wildfire Mitigation Specialist

Summary/Objective

EDM is seeking a Utility Wildfire Mitigation Technical Specialist that would be responsible for performing indepth research and technical writing to help utilities assess and proactively mitigate wildfire risk, enhance the resilience and reliability of the electric grid, and facilitate compliance with applicable regulations. The specialist will play an important role as part of a larger wildfire mitigation consulting team to collaboratively develop and write comprehensive Wildfire Mitigation Plans (WMPs), resiliency plans, gap analyses, and related documents for electric utilities across multiple states, provinces, and regulatory jurisdictions. The specialist will translate complex technical and regulatory information into clear, actionable tactical and strategic plans that integrate current industry prevalent practices and technologies for wildfire mitigation and will collaborate with crossfunctional teams and utility stakeholders to gather data and insights needed for various wildfire mitigation deliverables. The role emphasizes technical writing, research, and staying current with emerging wildfire mitigation strategies, industry trends, technological advancements, and regulatory requirements.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities:

- Utility Wildfire Mitigation Document Development: Draft, edit, and update comprehensive wildfire
 mitigation documents for multiple electric utilities, including WMPs, resiliency plans, operations plans,
 gap analyses, white papers, etc. This includes writing detailed sections on wildfire risk assessment,
 prevention strategies, operational response protocols, and metrics for plan effectiveness. Ensure WMPs
 are tailored to the utility's service territory, capabilities, aspirations, and meet all applicable regulatory
 requirements and industry standards.
- Research and Integration of Wildfire Mitigation Practices and Technologies: Conduct in-depth research on wildfire risks and mitigation techniques to inform wildfire mitigation recommendations and assist utilities with risk assessments and implementation of various wildfire mitigation technologies and strategies. Stay abreast of the latest developments in wildfire mitigation across the electric utility industry. Monitor what peer utilities and research institutions are doing to prevent and respond to wildfires, including emerging technologies and innovative practices. Integrate these prevalent strategies into deliverables (e.g., reports, plans, storyboards, etc.) and leverage proven technologies to reduce wildfire risk.
- Regulatory Compliance: Track and interpret evolving wildfire-related regulations, standards, and guidelines in different regions. Ensure that each utility's wildfire mitigation practices and documents ahere to local, state, and federal requirements, as well as any applicable industry standards (e.g., state WMP regulatory requirements, state and federal wildfire safety mandates, and relevant NERC/FERC reliability standards).
- Cross-Functional Collaboration: Work closely with utility subject matter experts and departments to gather information, conduct subject matter expert interviews, and validate plan content. Coordinate with utility representatives to collect data on existing mitigation activities, programs, and future initiatives. Collaborate with stakeholders to ensure WMPs aligne with operational realities and company objectives. Facilitate reviews and incorporate feedback from internal and external experts, including utility leadership or consultants, to refine the plan.



- **Documentation and Technical Writing:** Produce high-quality technical documentation for all components of the WMP. Write clear and well-structured explanations of mitigation programs, risk assessment methodologies, emergency response procedures, etc. Ensure that the writing is precise and accessible, conveying complex technical concepts in a way that regulators, utility staff, and community stakeholders can understand.
- **Continuous Improvement and Reporting:** Support ongoing improvement of wildfire mitigation planning and development efforts. Assist in reviewing and updating WMPs on a regular cycle, incorporating new data, lessons learned from recent wildfire events, and feedback from regulators or independent evaluations. Track the utility's progress on mitigation initiatives and performance metrics, and include these findings in plan updates or status reports. Recommend enhancements or new mitigation measures for future plan iterations based on emerging evidence and practices. Contribute to internal and external reports or presentations about the plan's implementation as needed.

Education/Qualifications/Experience:

- Bachelor's degree in a relevant technical field required (e.g., Environmental Science, Fire Ecology, Emergency Management, Engineering, or a related discipline).
- Master's degree in a relevant technical field is preferred.
- Graduate research or thesis work specifically related to wildfire mitigation, power system risk, or climate adaptation may be considered in lieu of some work experience.
- Experience working directly for an electric utility or having utility-related experience strongly desired.
- Demonstrated experience with utility wildfire mitigation plan development and implementation a plus.
- Strong organizational and planning skills.
- Knowledge of wildfire risk assessment, mitigation strategies, regulatory frameworks, and industry standards.
- Strong analytical and problem-solving skills.
- Exceptional communication and interpersonal skills, with the ability to engage a wide range of stakeholders.
- Excellent communication and presentation skills.
- Proficient in project management software and tools.
- Competent with Office 365 applications.

Competencies:

- **Technical Writing:** Superior technical writing and editing skills are crucial. The specialist should be able to produce documents that are technically accurate, well-organized, and easy to follow. Mastery of grammar, style, and document design (headings, lists, tables, etc.) in lengthy reports is important.
- Analytical and Critical Thinking: Strong ability to analyze complex problems, interpret data, and think critically. The role involves examining risk factors and mitigation options; being able to evaluate information, draw logical conclusions, and justify recommendations is key. A detail-oriented mindset ensures that subtle but important insights are not overlooked during analysis.
- **Collaboration and Teamwork:** Excellent interpersonal skills with a proven ability to work collaboratively on multidisciplinary teams. This includes being proactive in communication, using virtual collaboration tools effectively when in person collaboration is not possible, and contributing positively to team discussions and brainstorming sessions. The specialist should be comfortable seeking input from colleagues and stakeholders, as well as sharing their own expertise to support group goals.
- Self-Motivation and Adaptability: Ability to work independently with minimal supervision, while managing time and tasks efficiently. The specialist should be self-motivated and capable of maintaining productivity in an office and remote environment. Adaptability is also essential; wildfire mitigation is an evolving field, and the specialist must be willing to learn new concepts and adjust plans as new information or technologies emerge.

- **Project Management:** Solid organizational and project management skills to handle multiple WMP projects or tasks concurrently. This includes setting timelines, prioritizing workload, coordinating meetings, and ensuring that each project progresses to meet client deadlines. Familiarity with project management tools or methodologies is a plus, as is the ability to break down large writing assignments into manageable deliverables.
- **Technical Proficiency:** Proficient in standard office and analysis software. This includes strong skills in Microsoft Office 365 (Word for report writing, Excel for data analysis, PowerPoint for presentations, etc.) and experience with online collaboration platforms (e.g., SharePoint, Teams, or similar). Experience with data visualization tools, basic database querying, and familiarity with generative AI are preferred. Overall, the specialist should be comfortable leveraging technology to enhance productivity and the quality of work products.
- **Continuous Learning:** A commitment to continuous learning and professional development. The specialist will actively follow developments in wildfire science, mitigation technology, and utility industry practices. Being involved in professional networks or forums related to wildfire mitigation (webinars, workshops, conferences) and staying informed through trade publications or research journals will help maintain the cutting-edge knowledge that this role requires.
- **Approachability:** Foster open, respectful communication with stakeholders and build trust through active listening, being responsive, patient, and clear when guiding teams through technical protocols or when reviewing mitigation plans and risk assessment data. Encourage open communication across stakeholders and an environment where team members feel comfortable seeking feedback, asking questions, or offering input.

Work Environment / Physical Demands:

- This job operates in a professional office environment. This role routinely uses standard office equipment such as computers, phones, photocopiers, filing cabinets and fax machines.
- This job will require occasional travel and fieldwork. While performing some of these duties, the employee will be exposed to outdoor weather conditions.
- In the office work environment, the employee is regularly required to sit, speak, and listen/hear. The employee is occasionally required to stand and walk. The employee must occasionally lift and/or move up to 25 pounds. The noise level in the office work environment is usually quiet.
- The employee must have sufficient physical ability and mobility to occasionally travel and work in a field environment; to walk, stand, sit, and operate a motor vehicle; to frequently stoop, bend, kneel, crouch, run, crawl, climb, reach, twist, grasp and make repetitive hand movement in the performance of fieldwork; carry, push and/or pull amounts of weight up to 50lbs.; to operate assigned equipment and vehicles; ability to verbally communicate to exchange information with the public; ability to see and hear in normal range with or without correction.

Position Type/Expected Hours of Work:

- This is a full-time exempt/salary plus discretionary bonus position.
- This job will require occasional travel, including overnight and weekends.

Salary:

• \$90,000-\$110,000

Other Duties:

The above job description is not intended to be an all-inclusive list of responsibilities and performance standards for the position. Incumbents will perform other job-related duties as assigned.

EEO Statement

EDM is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

To Apply:

Upload resume and cover letter on Indeed OR to apply by email see instructions on EDM website at <u>http://edmlink.com/careers</u> Please send a cover letter and resume to <u>jobs@edmlink.com</u>