



**Chugach National Forest**  
**\*\*\*OUTREACH NOTICE\*\*\***  
**Meteorological Technician (GS-1341-7)**  
**Avalanche Specialist**

**OPENS: 8/15/19**

**CLOSES: 8/21/19**

**Primary Contact:** Wendy Wagner  
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This outreach notice informs prospective applicants that a position is currently being advertised on USA Jobs. Follow the provided link to view the announcement and apply for the position: [20-TEMP1-NAT-3803-7DT-RO](#)

The Chugach National Forest Avalanche Information Center (CNFAIC) will be filling a Meteorological Technician (Avalanche Specialist) position. This is a Temporary Seasonal, 1039 hour appointment (November – April) with a duty station in Girdwood, AK.



**Position Description**

The CNFAIC issues daily avalanche bulletins and avalanche warnings during the winter months to assist backcountry recreationalists in making informed and safe decisions. CNFAIC staff also teaches a number of educational programs to backcountry recreationalists (skiers, snowboarders, snowmachiners, snowshoers, etc.), local emergency service personnel, Forest Service personnel, youth groups and others as requested. The successful applicant will work as an avalanche specialist for Alaska's Type 1 Regional avalanche center performing fieldwork, writing daily observations and advisories, providing avalanche education to the community and investigating avalanche accidents when necessary.

**Responsibilities include:**

- Issuance of daily backcountry avalanche bulletins for public dissemination
- Issuance of avalanche warnings through local media outlets
- Safely conduct regular fieldwork (as group leader) in avalanche terrain using backcountry skis and/ or a snowmachine as means of travel
- Act as a safe and competent field partner for avalanche center staff
- Write daily observations post-field day for inclusion on the website
- Interpret National Weather Service weather models to write a mountain weather forecast
- Update database of avalanche information. Update website and social media outlets
- Write articles and/ or blogs on relevant topics
- Conduct interviews with local media (TV, radio, newspapers)
- Interface with avalanche professionals in the community and emergency service organizations



- Safely conduct avalanche investigations when needed
- Teach classroom and field-based avalanche education programs for a variety of audiences
- Support the districts winter recreation and trails program
- Other duties as assigned (including cleaning and maintaining trailhead outhouse facilities)

**The candidate should possess the following knowledge, skills, and abilities:**

- Strong background and advanced training in snowpack observation and avalanche hazard evaluation and companion rescue. Pro 2 or Level 3 (AAA) desired or Canadian equivalent
- Strong backcountry skiing and snowmachining skills
- Excellent physical condition with strong skills in mountain travel and winter survival
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Well-versed in a variety of computer programs and applications
- Knowledge of mountain weather and forecasting from computer models

**WORK ENVIRONMENT:**

Field work will be performed outdoors in a winter environment. Travel will include accessing job sites by backcountry skis and snowmachines, sometimes through avalanche terrain. Early mornings are also required as advisories are due by 7am daily meaning work often begins at 4:00am. Southcentral Alaska experiences a variety of snowpack and climates, including areas receiving large and frequent maritime snowstorms and areas with a shallow more inter-mountain type snowpack. Mid-winter rain events are also not an uncommon occurrence for this area of Alaska.

**HOUSING:**

Seasonal housing may be available in Girdwood at a subsidized Government rate.

**COMMUNITY INFORMATION:**

Duty station for this position is Girdwood, Alaska. Girdwood, while part of the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA), is a separate, unique community. Several current district employees commute from the more urbanized Anchorage bowl, approximately 40 miles north of Girdwood, while the majority live in the small, resort community informally known as Glacier City.

Alyeska Resort is the dominating feature of Girdwood, and is the state's largest ski area. The resort influence raises the ratio of eateries and lounges as compared to a typical small Alaskan community. A K-8 public school, MOA Library, health clinic, volunteer fire dept. and a small, but well-stocked grocery store provide the basic necessities, while the Anchorage bowl has just about every type of store and service.

More Community Information is available at:

<http://www.girdwoodchamber.com/>

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/chugach>

**QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:**

Those who are interested in any of these opportunities must meet the qualification requirements for the grade listed. Qualifications are covered in the [OPM Qualification Standards Handbook](#). Additional information can be found [here](#).

To respond to this outreach or for more information about this position, please fill out the following and send to [wendy@chugachavalanche.org](mailto:wendy@chugachavalanche.org).