

Instructor: Kim Soper



Kim Soper began his Forest Service career in 1973 working as a summer seasonal in timber and fire management on the Powell Ranger District (R.D.) in the Dixie National Forest. He continued to work six more years as a seasonal before receiving an appointment in 1979–1980 as a relief log

scaler/forestry technician. From 1980 to 1984, he was a marking foreman on the North Kaibab Ranger District in the Kaibab National Forest.

The next 25 years he worked in the fire management program as a district fire management officer on the Powell R.D. Specifically, he was the east zone fire management officer, which consisted of three forest service districts (Powell R.D., Escalante R.D., and Teasdale R.D.) on the Dixie National Forest. He was the forest fire management officer on the Manti-La Sal National Forest, and his final fire management career position was as the central Utah interagency fire management officer located on the Fishlake National Forest and Richfield BLM District.

Kim was an incident commander (IC) on a National Interagency Wildland Fire Use Team, Type 2 incident management. He is currently a Type 3 IC, operations section chief, FBAN, LTAN, SOPL, and safety officer on national teams.

Kim retired in July 2009 after a 35-year career. He is currently living in Panguitch, Utah, with his wife, Wendy. He continues to stay active in the incident management arena. He is a wildland fire instructor and a Panguitch City councilman. He continues to enjoy hiking, cross-country skiing, Alaska fishing trips, and spending time with his 18 grandchildren.

Since 2013, Kim has served as adjunct instructor for Utah Valley University; Kim provides specialized ICS instruction as well as the complete ICS training curriculum to multiagency personnel throughout Utah and adjoining states.

Unique Qualifications

- 42 years in emergency management and over 35 years with the U.S. Forest Service and BLM
- Specializes in incident command and fuels management training

Professional Highlights

- Fire management officer, U.S. Forest Service and BLM
- Type 3 IC, operations section chief, FBAN, LTAN, SOPL, and safety officer on national teams

Professional Affiliations

- Panguitch City councilman
- Garfield County volunteer emergency medical technician