Pilot Investigator I

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Performs law enforcement piloting work. Work involves piloting airplanes or helicopters to provide aerial assistance in law enforcement activities. Works under general supervision, with moderate latitude for the use of initiative and independent judgment.

EXAMPLES OF WORK PERFORMED

Operates airplanes or helicopters in a safe and professional manner.

Evaluates general safety of aircraft based on mechanical performance and ensures that maintenance and repairs are performed when needed.

Searches for evidence, persons, automobiles, or any item relevant to a criminal search or investigation.

Participates in surveillance activities.

Transports and assumes responsibility for the welfare of protected witnesses and informants, large sums of money, or other items pertinent to investigations.

Transports prisoners, suspects, witnesses, informants, law enforcement officers, and others involved in criminal investigations and legal proceedings.

Provides aerial reconnaissance and surveillance of disasters, riots, and other emergencies or special sites.

Inspects flight equipment, tests controls, inspects fuel and fluid levels, and performs related safety checks.

May assist in traffic and criminal investigations and apprehensions.

Performs related work as assigned.

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GENERAL QUALIFICATION GUIDELINES

EXPERIENCE AND EDUCATION

Experience in piloting airplanes and helicopters and successful completion of the Department of Public Safety Training Academy. Graduation from an accredited four-year college or university with major coursework in a field relevant to assignment is generally preferred. Experience and education may be substituted for one another.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES

Knowledge of police techniques, procedures, and methodologies; of state and federal statutes, rules, and regulations pertaining to traffic and criminal law enforcement; of Federal Aviation Administration rules, regulations, policies, and procedures; and of piloting techniques, navigation, safety, and maintenance.

Skill in piloting airplanes or helicopters and in using a computer and applicable software.

Ability to prepare reports and to communicate effectively.

REGISTRATION, CERTIFICATION, OR LICENSURE

Must be certified as a Texas peace officer by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement and as a pilot by the Federal Aviation Administration. Must possess a valid driver’s license.