

## **Nikia Hernandez**

Nikia Hernandez serves as a District Fire Management Officer on the Kootenai National Forest for the U.S. Forest Service in the state of Montana. He has served as a fuels specialist, smokejumper, firefighter and lookout over the course of his 23 year career in fire management. He is currently a member of a Type 2 Incident Management Team as a Division Group Supervisor. He also manages fire response in the Libby Superfund which is the only public health emergency ever declared by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The area consists of about 15,000 hectares with asbestos contamination in the tree bark, duff and soil which poses significant health and safety risks for fire responders and the public. Nikia holds a Bachelor of Science in Forestry from the University of Montana.