

## CHAPTER 50 - AIRCRAFT

### AIRCRAFT

Aircraft may be used for a wide range of activities, including point-to-point transport of personnel, equipment, and supplies. Tactical use may include applications such as retardant delivery, helicopter logistical and tactical support, air tactical and lead plane operations, suppression, or preparedness reconnaissance, helitorch operations, etc.

### AIRCRAFT SOURCES

Sources for aircraft include agency-owned aircraft (Fleet), exclusive-use (EU), call-when-needed (CWN), or Department of Interior (DOI) On-Call contract aircraft. Rental aircraft are hired by the DOI under an Aircraft Rental Agreement (ARA), or by state agencies through Cooperative Agreement or letters of authorization. Cooperator and military aircraft may be utilized provided an agreement and approval are in place. Use of active-duty military aircraft by federal agencies is rare and is coordinated by the NICC.

### COOPERATOR AIRCRAFT

Refer to the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations (NFES 2724) for additional information regarding cooperator aircraft.

<https://www.nifc.gov/standards/guides/red-book>

Cooperator-contracted aircraft also on an existing federal contract with federal aircraft and pilot cards may be utilized on federally protected lands when cooperative agreements are in place and the aircraft have been approved by USDA Forest Service/DOI letter.

Cooperator-contracted, exclusive-use aircraft not on an existing federal contract may be considered for approval on a case-by-case basis when cooperative agreements are in place. Approval will be by USDA Forest Service/DOI letter.

Cooperator-owned/-operated aircraft may be utilized on federally managed fires when cooperative agreements are in place and the aircraft have been approved by FS/DOI letter. Cooperator-owned/-operated aircraft meeting requirements of the NWCG Standards for Interagency Cooperator Type 2 and Type 3 Helicopters, PMS 525-1 or other applicable NWCG standards may be utilized on federally protected lands when cooperative agreements are in place and the aircraft have been approved by FS/DOI letter.

<https://www.nwcg.gov/sites/default/files/publications/pms525-1.pdf>

All cooperator aircraft used on federally protected lands must be approved by FS/DOI letter. Utilization of approved, cooperator aircraft shall be limited based on 49 UNITED STATES CODE §40125.

- All approved cooperator aircraft used on federally managed fires shall be released when federal aircraft become reasonably available.
- The use of cooperator aircraft must involve a “significant and imminent threat to life or property” documented daily on the Cooperator Aircraft Use Validation Worksheet (National Mob Guide [Chapter 80](#)) to document the justification for aircraft utilization.

### NON-FEDERALLY APPROVED AIRCRAFT

Cooperator-contracted, exclusive-use aircraft not on an existing federal contract may be considered for approval on a case-by-case basis when cooperative agreements are in place.

The following conditions apply for non-federally approved aircraft:

- No federal employees are allowed to ride on board the aircraft.
- No federal employee may be assigned to a position that exercises contractual control.
- Federal personnel may load retardant at federal airtanker bases, regardless of jurisdiction.

- Federal personnel may provide aerial supervision (ATGS, ASM, HLCO, Lead plane) under existing standard operating procedures and agreements.
- The aircraft remains under State operational control regardless of the agency affiliation of the firefighters directing the aircraft on an incident with State jurisdiction.
- The aircraft are approved to interact with federal dispatch personnel as long as the aircraft remains under the operational control of the State or for safety reasons.

Under emergency circumstances, where human life is immediately at risk by wildland fire on lands under federal protection, a Federal Line Officer can approve the use of non-federally approved aircraft. This exemption must only take place when sufficient federal firefighting aircraft are not readily available to meet the emergency need. Federal line officers are encouraged to consult with agency aviation management personnel to aid in decision making.

Approving Federal Line Officer must document exemptions in accordance with agency guidance to include submitting a SAFECOM within 24 hours.

- **Idaho Department of Lands Compact**

The Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) may obtain Canadian aircraft as a member of the Northwest Wildland Fire Protection Agreement (Northwest Compact). IDL can hire EU aircraft as well as CWN aircraft through IDL's Aviation Price Agreements for Call When Needed Services (IDL CWN APA).

- **National Guard Resources**

National Guard (NG) resources may be mobilized in accordance with current agreements.

When ordering long term NG resources, each state has identified a single dispatch center and state liaison who will coordinate and serve as the liaison/contact for any request for NG assets.

- **IDAHO**  
All units in Idaho will order through the Boise Interagency Dispatch Center (BDC) utilizing established dispatch channels. BDC will coordinate with the IDL State Duty Officer and the IDL GBCG representative for notification and mobilization of NG resources. The ordering dispatch center will then notify GBCC regarding the order. BDC will coordinate with the IDL State Duty Officer to place the order.
- **NEVADA**  
All units within Nevada will order through the Sierra Front Interagency Dispatch Center (SFC) utilizing established dispatch channels. SFC will work with the NDF duty officer and GBCG contact for notification and mobilization of NG resources. The ordering dispatch center will then notify GBCC regarding the order. SFC will contact the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) Duty Officer to place the order.
- **UTAH**  
All units within Utah will order through the Northern Utah Interagency Dispatch Center (NUC) utilizing established dispatch channels. NUC will work through the Utah Division of Forestry's duty officer and GBCG contact for notification and mobilization of NG resources. The ordering dispatch center will then notify GBCC regarding the order. Dispatch centers shall not contact the NG directly to order aircraft.
- **ARIZONA**  
All requests for Arizona National Guard resources will be ordered through the Arizona Dispatch Center to the Arizona State Forestry. An informational copy of the resource order must be sent through the normal dispatch channels to Southwest Coordination Center.
- **WYOMING**  
At certain times the National Guard has available helicopters, equipment and personnel that are

useful in the suppression of forest and range fires on Federal and State lands. The National Guard units may be ordered through the State for state incidents or the RMACC for federal incidents. Only helicopter resources have been identified in a preseason agreement.

## CARDING AND APPROVAL

All aircraft and pilots under DOI and USFS operational control must be approved and carded by either DOI or USFS. Aircraft and pilots requiring “special use or mission” endorsement require inspection by a USFS or DOI authorized inspector. Typically, special use or mission flights are defined as anything other than point to point transport.

## AIRCRAFT MOBILIZATION *See National Interagency Mobilization Guide*

Local units requiring aviation services other than those currently assigned within their dispatch boundaries must order additional services through the established dispatch channels. When aviation resources are in high demand, the GACC will coordinate aircraft assignments and utilization within the Great Basin. In situations where a GBMAC support has been formed, the MAC will coordinate with GBCC and local units on allocation and prioritization of resources. All aircraft movement will follow established dispatch procedures.

All BLM aircraft, exclusive use, CWN or On Call are national resources and are subject to movement and/or reassignment by BLM National Office and/or BLM State Office and will be coordinated through the GBCC and relayed to the local dispatch center.

State aircraft may be moved within each State’s area of responsibility with coordination through the local dispatch centers. When movement of aircraft by the States will be crossing GACC boundaries, communication to each geographic area is requested.

The closest forces concept should be followed by all agencies for Initial Attack (IA), and is defined as the resource that has the shortest timeframe to reach a predetermined incident location. Established dispatch channels will always be followed.

Agency aircraft identified below will be configured using a roster when mobilized to an incident:

Aerial Supervision Modules (ASM 1) and assigned aircrew.

Lead Planes and assigned air crews.

Agency owned Air Attack platforms and the assigned aircrew.

Agency exclusive use Air Attack platforms and the assigned aircrew.

Agency exclusive use helicopters and the assigned module members.

Agency owned helicopters and the assigned module members.

## AIRCRAFT DEMOBILIZATION *See National Interagency Mobilization Guide*

## FLIGHT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES / FLIGHT FOLLOWING

*See National Interagency Mobilization Guide*

## FLIGHT CREW / AIRCREW ORIENTATION

The local unit is responsible for providing an aviation briefing to:

- IMT aviation staff
- Incoming aviation resources
- Aviation Safety Assistance Teams (ASAT)

The briefing of non-local aviation resources should include, but is not limited to, the following:

Local administrative procedures, meals, lodging, time, flight payment document procedures, etc.

1 Airport procedures, base security policy, and plan  
2 Specific fire, fuel, and fire behavior conditions and information  
3 Aerial hazards maps for the local area  
4 Contact procedures prior to entering a SUA, TFRs, Airspace Letters of Agreement (LOA), and  
5 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)  
6 Weather (current and forecast)  
7

8 Crew/aircraft information sheets (see agency specific guide)  
9 Aircraft status summary  
10 Flight following procedures.

11 Local information, fueling, water sources, sunrise/sunset times, etc.  
12 Radio frequencies, map sets, and warehouse supplies  
13

#### 14 **AIRCRAFT DISPATCH FORM REQUIREMENTS – KNEE BOARD**

15

16 The NWCG Aircraft Dispatch Form PMS 250 (also known as a TARO or Knee Board), is the only  
17 authorized dispatch form to be used and is required for all non-local (outside of the ordering dispatch  
18 area) requests for the following:

- 19  
20 ○ Airtanker, Lead Plane, and ASM requests in initial attack, extended, and complex incidents.
- 21  
22 ○ Helicopters and Air Attack requests in initial attack or upon request of the sending unit or the  
23 GBCC.
- 24  
25 ○ *For resources coming from outside the GACC (or leaving the GACC), contact the GBCC to obtain*  
26 *a copy of the form.*  
27

28 If multiple aircraft are being ordered, or they are ordered within reasonably close timeframes of each  
29 other, one submission of the form to the GBCC or an adjacent neighbor dispatch will suffice. This form  
30 provides many benefits over the IROC resource order for both dispatch and the aviation community such  
31 as readability of incident locations, elevations, frequencies, hazards, contacts, and flight following  
32 information. An IROC request must then follow to the sending dispatch office as soon as practical.  
33

#### 34 • **Neighborhood Agreement**

35

36 Aircraft may be launched across GACC boundaries using an Aircraft Dispatch Form to facilitate  
37 neighborhood agreements for IA. However, a resource order must follow in a timely manner. The  
38 stipulations with the neighborhood agreement allow the request to be placed directly with the  
39 neighboring dispatch center without going to the GACC or NICC. The GBCC should be notified.  
40

#### 41 • **Orders Placed Through NICC**

42

43 All aircraft requests placed to the NICC must be in IROC. Requesting units shall ensure that IROC  
44 incident information is accurate to include current frequencies, reporting locations, and contacts as  
45 well as attaching a kneeboard to the order.  
46

#### 47 **AIRCRAFT FLIGHT REQUEST / SCHEDULE / FLIGHT STRIP**

48

49 Used for documenting aircraft, pilot, passenger, itinerary, and type of flight plan. Required information on  
50 this form includes (but is not limited to):  
51

52 Incident Name/Number and Request Number  
53

54 FAA Registration, "N" number and Call Sign  
55

56 Aircraft Make/Model/Color

1 Pilot and Vendor Name and Contact Information

2  
3 Mission Description

4  
5 Passenger/Cargo Information

6  
7 Flight Itineraries

8  
9 Flight Plan Type/Method of Flight Following

10 • **Aircraft Flight Request / Schedule / Flight Strip Requirements**

11  
12 The Aircraft Flight Request/Schedule Form is **required** to be completed (regardless of the type of flight  
13 plan filed) for those flights that are:

- 14  
15     ○ Point-to-Point  
16  
17     ○ Mission flights with fuel stops or passenger pickup (not direct to an incident)  
18  
19     ○ Flights leaving the geographic area  
20  
21     ○ Dispatch centers/aircrews will only utilize an approved agency Aircraft Flight Request/ Schedule  
22 form.  
23

24 In accordance with the guidelines above, agency flight plans are the responsibility of the pilot/manager, to  
25 be distributed through the originating dispatch office, and are documented on an Aircraft Flight  
26 Request/Schedule. This should occur before the aircraft begins flight. Pilots/managers should  
27 communicate with dispatch to coordinate the completion of a flight schedule form as accurately as  
28 possible. The type of flight plan must be documented, as this information is critical for initiating search  
29 and rescue actions. Once the sending office has the flight schedule form, it must be emailed to GBCC. If  
30 the GBCC is the hiring/sending office, a form will be created and emailed to the receiving dispatch office.  
31 The GBCC will email the form to all the affected dispatch offices when Agency Flight Plans are filed. The  
32 form will be emailed to the NICC by the GBCC for those flights leaving the geographic area.  
33

34 • **Responsibilities of the Sending Unit**

35  
36 Obtain actual time of departure (ATD) and estimated time of arrival (ETA) from the initial departure  
37 airport from pilot/vendor.  
38

39 Relay the ATD, ETA, and type of flight plan/flight following being utilized (FAA or Agency, AFF or  
40 Radio check-in) to the GBCC.  
41

42 Notify the GBCC of known delays/advances of a flight plan exceeding 30 minutes.  
43

44 Assist with search procedures for overdue aircraft. Utilize the Interagency Aviation Mishap Response  
45 Guide and Checklist.  
46

47 On any flight requiring stops enroute to a destination within the Great Basin, instruct the pilot-in-  
48 command or flight manager to contact the GBCC at 801-531-5320. Aircraft support vehicles should  
49 contact the GBCC at fuel stops.  
50

51 On any flight proceeding beyond the Great Basin, instruct the pilot-in-command or flight manager to  
52 contact the NICC at 800-994-6312. Aircraft support vehicles should contact the NICC at each fuel  
53 stop.

- **Responsibilities of the GBCC**

Relay the flight itinerary and type of flight plan/flight following being utilized to the requesting unit or NICC via phone.

Notify the requesting unit or the NICC in delays/advances of a flight plan exceeding 30 minutes.

Assist with search procedures for overdue aircraft. Utilize the Interagency Aviation Mishap Response Guide and Checklist.

- **Responsibilities of the Receiving Unit**

Confirm arrival of all tactical aircraft by telephone to the GBCC.

Notify the GBCC of any delays of a flight plan exceeding 30 minutes. Notify the GBCC of any aircraft overdue by more than 30 minutes.

Initiate/assist with search procedures for overdue aircraft. Utilize the Interagency Aviation Mishap Response Guide and Checklist.

## **TYPES OF FLIGHTS**

- **Point-to-Point**

A “Point-to-point” flight is one that originates at one developed airport or permanent helibase and flies directly to another developed airport or permanent helibase with the sole purpose of transporting personnel or cargo (this term does not apply to flights with a scheduled air carrier on a seat fare basis). These types of flights are often referred to as “administrative” flights and only require the aircraft and pilot to be carded and approved for point-to-point flight. A point-to-point flight is conducted higher than 500 feet above ground level (AGL).

- Attending training
- Giving a speech
- Functional assistance trip
- Attending a workshop

If a vendor is moving an aircraft under their own volition (non-revenue), it is not considered mission or point-to-point and is technically outside of any dispatching responsibility of flight tracking and/or flight following and will not have a flight schedule form. If a vendor requests flight tracking and/or flight following, it may be given as a courtesy, but is not required.

- **Mission**

Mission flights (also known as FS Special Use Mission Flights) are defined as flights not meeting the definition of a point-to-point flight. A mission flight requires work to be performed in the air (retardant or water delivery, fire reconnaissance, smokejumper delivery), or through a combination of ground and aerial work (delivery of personnel and/or cargo from helibase to helispot or unimproved landing sites, rappelling or cargo letdown, or horse herding). Special Use Mission Flights may require special pilot endorsements, flight evaluations, training and/or specialized aircraft equipment.

## **Flight Manager**

There will be a flight manager designated on all passenger flights originating within the Great Basin. GBCC will use the *National Interagency Mobilization Guide* direction for flight manager duties and responsibilities.

The flight manager is responsible for ascertaining the most efficient means of transportation to meet the criteria/schedule. The dispatch office will provide assistance in estimating aircraft costs but is not responsible for completing the cost comparison/justification worksheets/forms. The responsible party (flight manager or authorizing authority) must complete and sign (certify) the cost comparison/justification worksheets. Agencies are responsible for compiling documentation of the cost comparison/justification form and the flight invoice for each administrative flight.

## Flight Plans

All flights must be on a flight plan. There are two appropriate types of flight plans: FAA Flight Plan and Agency Flight Plan. The type of flight plan (method of flight following) is normally documented on the Flight Request/Schedule Form.

### • FAA Flight Plan and Flight Following

FAA flight plans **are required** when a flight proceeds beyond a geographic boundary (Exception: Initial Attack that requires crossing a geographic area neighboring border) or those flights within the Great Basin not on an Agency Flight Plan.

There are two types of FAA Flight Plans:

- Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) - FAA flight following is automatically provided by Air Traffic Control (ATC) on this type of flight plan. The pilot shall close out the flight plan with the FAA once the flight is completed.
- Visual Flight Rules (VFR) - The pilot must request FAA flight following. ATC may or may not provide it. It is the pilot's responsibility to confirm with dispatch which type of FAA flight plan will be used. The pilot shall close out the flight plan with the FAA once the flight is completed.

### • Agency Flight Plan

Agency flight plans **are required** when an FAA Flight Plan is not filed and are the responsibility of the pilot to complete and distribute. Agency Flight Plans are most often used for mission flights. The responsibility of ensuring the safe completion of a flight (flight following) lies with the originating dispatch office, unless a positive, documented handoff occurs.

There are two types of Agency flight following:

- Automated Flight Following (AFF) - AFF is the preferred method of agency flight following (once radio communications have been confirmed). If the aircraft and flight following office have AFF capability, it shall be utilized. Periodic radio transmissions for flight following reasons are acceptable but should be short and infrequent when utilizing AFF.
- Radio Check-in/Check-out – This requires verbal communication via radio every 15 minutes through the duration of the flight. The dispatcher logs the aircraft call sign, location, and heading.

It is the responsibility of the pilot/Flight Manager to advise dispatch upon take-off which plan (FAA or Agency) is being utilized. It is the responsibility of the dispatcher to ensure Flight Plan information is shared with the affected dispatch centers along the aircraft's route.

Verbal and AFF flight following is not required enroute when an FAA flight plan has been filed.

At the conclusion of the flight, the flight manager/pilot will ensure that the receiving dispatch office is notified of their arrival. The receiving dispatch office is responsible for notifying the originating dispatch office. If an aircraft is overdue, it is the receiving dispatcher's responsibility to initiate aircraft search and rescue actions. The flight following dispatch office shall be continually staffed while an aircraft is airborne. Flight following problems should be documented in the SAFECOM system.

Federal/state agencies and cooperators utilizing aviation resources for non-fire projects are not automatically tracked and/or flight followed on Agency Flight Plans. Any requests for the Great Basin dispatch centers to perform this function must be part of a Project Aviation Safety Plan (DOI) / Mission Aviation Safety Plan (USFS) and coordinated well in advance of the project and will have a flight request schedule form completed. Requests for flight following, is a courtesy, and is at the discretion of the dispatch office.

Vendors performing “End-Product” contracts will not be flight followed by Great Basin dispatch centers.

#### **AUTOMATED FLIGHT FOLLOWING (AFF)**

Automated flight following is the preferred type of Agency Flight Following. Automated flight following provides the dispatcher with a wide range of information on the flight, airspace, and other data that may be pertinent to the flight. This reduces pilot workload, clears overloaded radio frequencies, and provides the dispatcher with much greater detail and accuracy on aircraft location and flight history. AFF does not eliminate hand-off procedures.

- **Requirements to Utilize AFF**

Automated flight following does NOT reduce or eliminate the requirement for aircraft on mission flights to have FM radio capability and for the aircraft to be monitoring appropriate radio frequencies during the flight for possible divers or updated mission information from dispatch, or an ops-check if resource is no longer showing positive on AFF.

When utilizing AFF, periodic “ops normal” radio checks may be desirable. These should be very brief and less frequent than the 15-minute radio check-in procedures.

Procedures for flight requests, ordering aircraft, requirement for a flight manager, etc., are the same as radio check-in procedures.

The aircraft must be equipped with the necessary hardware (transmitter and antenna).

When a flight will cross “boundaries” (example: A flight will originate on Unit A, fly on Unit A, then continue on to Units B and C), coordination between dispatch offices of Units A, B, and C must be accomplished. If an aircraft is being dispatched, it is the responsibility of the sending unit to ensure that receiving dispatch centers responsible for flight following during any portion of the flight must be open.

- **Procedures for Utilizing AFF**

When an aircraft is ordered, or an aircraft requests flight following from a dispatch office and the above listed requirements are met, automated flight following shall be initiated.

Other standard information shall be communicated to the dispatch office, such as route of flight, passengers, purpose of flight, radio frequencies to monitor, known flight hazards, TFR information, ETD, etc. (no change from radio check-in procedures).

If the flight will cross dispatch boundaries, the originating dispatch office must coordinate with affected units, and establish that the aircraft will be handed off when the border is crossed.

When an aircraft is initially airborne and outside of sterile cockpit environment, a radio call shall be made to the flight following dispatch office to initiate AFF. This is required to positively verify that both the aircraft and the dispatch office are utilizing automated flight following, radios are operational, and that the dispatcher can “see” the aircraft on AFF. If there is a problem at this point, revert to normal radio 15-minute check-in procedures until the problem is resolved.

When the aircraft has completed the flight and landed, the pilot or passenger (observer, flight manager, ATGS, etc.) shall contact the flight following dispatch office via radio or telephone informing them that they are on the ground.

- **Responsibilities of Pilot/Flight Manager**

Contact dispatch to establish AFF flight following (preferably via phone prior to flight).

Provide dispatch with appropriate flight information (same as radio check-in procedures).



Obtain appropriate FM frequencies and tones to be monitored during flight and brief on radio calls you will make and what response is expected.

Shortly after takeoff and outside of sterile cockpit environment, contact dispatch via radio to initiate AFF.

If radio contact is not made with dispatch office, return to airport/helibase.

If radio contact is made and AFF is verified by dispatch office, monitor assigned frequencies, including guard, for duration of flight.

If a deviation from planned and briefed flight route occurs, contact dispatch office via radio with the change.

If AFF capability is lost at the dispatch office, or the signal is lost during the flight, flight following will revert to 15-minute radio check-in procedures.

Although not required at any time during the flight, it is acceptable to check in via radio with dispatch to confirm positive AFF.

Inform dispatch upon landing that the aircraft is on the ground.

#### • Responsibilities of Aircraft Dispatcher

When AFF is requested, ensure AFF program access is available and request standard flight information from the pilot/flight manager. Document using existing dispatch forms and logs.

Provide pilot/flight manager with appropriate frequencies to monitor during the flight (dispatch frequency, national flight following, etc.). Ensure these frequencies are monitored during duration of flight.

If flight following will be handed off to another dispatch office during the flight, brief this with the pilot, flight manager, providing frequency change, call sign, and other appropriate information.

Check AFF system to ensure icon for the aircraft is shown.

Shortly after takeoff, pilot, flight manager will call via radio to initiate AFF. Check aircraft icon color and verify time and date.

Ensure the AFF system remains operating on your computer during the entire flight.

Set 15-minute timer and check flight progress as appropriate during the flight. Document using existing forms and logs.

If the icon turns RED, it means the signal has been lost. Immediately attempt contact with the aircraft via radio and follow normal lost communication, missing aircraft, or downed aircraft procedures as appropriate.

If radio contact is made after a lost signal, flight may continue utilizing 15-minute radio check-ins for flight following.

Use standard contact procedure if computer system goes down during flight.

#### • Procedures for Handoff Between Dispatch Offices

When a flight crosses dispatch boundaries, flight following will be handed off from one dispatch center to another via telephone or radio and documented. This must be coordinated between the affected dispatch offices.

## • Coordination Requirements

Flight following handoffs must be coordinated when using AFF. Affected dispatch offices will monitor appropriate frequencies, and if frequency changes are required, when and where they should be made.

Whenever possible, utilize national flight following frequency (168.650, Tone 110.9, both transmit and receive) for entire flight.

Ensure pilots/flight managers are briefed on any handoffs anticipated (call signs, frequencies and when to switch) and if a combination of AFF and radio check-ins will be required (when and where).

**NOTE:** Air Guard (168.625) is available to contact an aircraft or dispatch office if contact can't be made on established frequencies. Once contact is initiated, an alternative frequency will be assigned to continue flight following.

## OVERDUE AND MISSING AIRCRAFT

At 30 minutes past the last scheduled check-in, or the filed ETA, the dispatch office currently responsible for flight following will confer with intermediate and/or destination dispatch office(s) to determine the aircraft's location or whether the aircraft can be contacted by radio or located by other means. For mission flights, the aircraft is considered overdue at the scheduled check-in time. Refer to the Interagency Aviation Mishap Response Guide and Checklist for procedures to follow in the event of an overdue and/or missing aircraft.

## AVIATION FREQUENCY MANAGEMENT See *National Mobilization Guide*

### • National Air Guard Frequency 168.625 MHz (Tone 110.9 TX)

A National Interagency Air Guard frequency for aircraft will be used for emergency aviation communications. Continuous monitoring of this frequency in narrowband mode is mandatory by agency dispatch centers. Rx and TX tones are required nationally.

This frequency, 168.625 MHz, is restricted to the following use:

Air-to-air emergency contact and coordination.

Ground-to-air emergency contact.

Initial call, recall, and redirection of aircraft when no other contact frequency is available.

### • National Flight Following Frequency 168.650 MHz (Tone 110.9 TX and RX)

The national flight following frequency is used to monitor agency and contract aircraft. This frequency is used for flight following; it is not to be used during mission flights or incident operations. All dispatch centers/offices will monitor the national flight following frequency at all times.

This frequency, 168.650 MHz, is restricted to the following use:

- Flight following, dispatch, and/or redirection of aircraft.
- No other use is authorized.

### • Preassigned Initial Attack Frequencies

Initial attack AM and FM frequencies are issued annually by the National Interagency Incident Communication Division (NIICD) to a pre-identified geographic area which corresponds to the Great Basin dispatch zone boundaries. The frequencies issued are intended for initial attack incidents on

any jurisdiction(s) within that zone. Often there are not enough frequencies available for individual units to always specify a particular IA frequency.

#### • **FM Frequencies (Air-to-Ground, VHF-FM)**

A standard air-to-ground (A/G) naming convention has been implemented in the Great Basin. This naming convention utilizes a standardized frequency identifier (or name system) for initial attack zone air-to-ground frequencies. Air-to-ground frequencies are assigned a numerical name (example: a given frequency, 1xxx.xxx, will be designated as "A/G 1" and all other air-to-ground frequencies will get an ascending numerical name. The standard naming of the air-to-ground frequencies **will not** dictate the priority usage of a frequency.

Each zone has pre-assigned air-to-ground frequencies. These frequencies have been assigned considering geographic locations to avoid as much interference as possible. If conflicts arise, a request for an additional or new frequency will be placed through GBCC to NIICD for a temporary frequency.

#### • **AM Frequencies – Air Tactics (Air-to-Air)**

Each zone has pre-assigned Air-to-Air frequencies. Frequencies allocated to zones for initial attack are not to be dedicated for project fire use. These frequencies may be used for All-Hazard incidents, Search and Rescue, etc. with coordination through NIFC CDO.

Each dispatch center will receive their assigned Primary and Secondary Air-to-Air by April. The Tertiaries are held at the GACC and will be ordered as needed through IROC. All preassigned Air-to-Air frequencies should be ordered and held at the local dispatch on a GACC Preposition order. Throughout the fire season they should be assigned in IROC to the fires they are used on and will be released to the GACC at the end of the season or when no longer needed.

Temporary frequency assignments will be requested for project fire use. Temporary frequencies cannot be reassigned when the incident is completed or no longer needed, they must be released to NIFC CDO.

#### • **Additional Frequencies**

The following are some reminders before ordering, and during use, of these frequencies:

- Are all assigned frequencies being used?
- Is the operation of all aircraft on one victor frequency?
- Has the traffic decreased enough so that the frequency can be released?

#### **SUNRISE/SUNSET TABLES**

Aviation bases and dispatch centers shall have official sunrise and sunset tables at their locations to determine start up and cut off times for the local areas. For aircraft dispatch, use the official sunrise and sunset tables for the aircraft base nearest the fire.

Official sunrise and sunset tables are published with standard times. During Daylight Saving Time add one hour to all times in the table. The term civil twilight refers to a point 30 minutes prior to official sunrise or 30 minutes after official sunset.

Sunrise/sunset tables can be accessed on the internet at the following addressed:  
[https://aa.usno.navy.mill/data/RS\\_OneDay](https://aa.usno.navy.mill/data/RS_OneDay) or <https://sunrise-sunset.org/>

#### **SPECIAL FLIGHT CONDITIONS**

#### • **Instrument Flight Conditions FSM 5716.12**

Instrument Flight Conditions are for multi-engine or turbine powered single-engine aircraft for flights in Instrument Meteorological Conditions (IMC) that meet the applicable Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) requirements in Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR) Part 135, Part 91 and Part 61 as referenced in FSH 5709.16 or applicable contracts.

Low level (FSM 5716.3) fixed wing flight operations will be conducted only in daylight Visual Flight Rules (VFR) conditions (30 minutes prior to official sunrise until 30 minutes after official sunset).

#### • **Night Flying 5716.2**

Night flying use is for multi-engine or turbine powered single-engine aircraft for night flights that meet the applicable requirements in FAR Part 91 and Part 61 as referenced in FSH 5709.16 or applicable contracts.

Pilots flying night missions shall land at airports or heliports that meet Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) lighting standards, except:

- This restriction does not apply to helicopter flights utilizing Night Vision Goggles (NVG).
- Low level helicopter flight operations will only be conducted using NVG. Helicopters will be approved for such an operation.
- Reciprocating engine powered single-engine aircraft flights at night are authorized only for ferry and cargo-carrying missions at pilot-in-command discretion and in accordance with FAR Part 91.

#### **STERILE COCKPIT PROCEDURES**

Sterile cockpit rules apply within a five-mile radius of the airport. The aircrew will not perform radio or cockpit communications that is not directly related to the safe flight of the aircraft from taxi to 5 miles out upon takeoff and from 5 miles out until clearing and active runway upon landing.

Sterile cockpit procedure means no communications between an aircraft and the airtanker base, dispatch office or ramp personnel while the aircraft is in the traffic pattern unless it involves the safety of flight. Fire dispatching or reload instructions are not related to the safe flight of the aircraft.

Exception: When conducting firefighting missions within 5 miles of an uncontrolled airport, maintain a sterile cockpit until departing the traffic pattern and reaching final altitude. Monitor the Common Traffic Advisory Frequency (CTAF) if feasible, while engaged in firefighting activities. Monitor CTAF as soon as practical upon leaving the fire and returning to the uncontrolled airport. When conducting firefighting missions within a Class B, C or D airspace, notify dispatch that Air Traffic Control (ATC) communications will have priority over dispatch communications.

#### **AIRSPACE BOUNDARY DISPATCHING**

See the Great Basin Interagency Airspace Boundary Management Plan and Checklist (Chapter 80).

#### **STAGED / PREPOSITION / SUPPORT**

All aircraft prepositioned at the request of the GBCC on staging/prepositioned support codes, are available for local IA, following national commitment guidelines. Any assignment of these resources to large/project fires will have GACC concurrence prior to assignment.

Prior to prepositioning aircraft to local dispatch bases, coordination will be made through the local center manager/aircraft dispatcher. The local center will then create an incident in IROC for the aircraft to be assigned for dispatch and tracking purposes.

1 Suggested example: 2023 BDC GACC Preposition

2 This incident can also include GACC support for crews, equipment, overhead and supplies.

3 Extended staffing of GACC support resources are to be made available for geographic wide IA response.

4 Any extensions of local resources on the GACC charge code are considered available for GACC wide  
5 response. Local units need to determine which resources are to be extended following this requirement.

6 Local units that have aircraft assigned to the GACC support code may utilize the code for additional  
7 airbase staffing as needed with the concurrence of the GBCC.

## 8 **AIRBORNE THERMAL INFRARED (IR) FIRE PRODUCTS**

9 See *National Interagency Mobilization Guide*

10  
11 Prior to ordering an IR fire mapping mission, it is important to consider the key differences in technologies  
12 and products available to identify the best product to support wildland fire operations.

13 Infrared operations can be ordered through NIROPS or through contracted aviation sources within the  
14 geographic area for surge capacity.

### 15 16 • **NIROPS IR Fire Mapping Requests**

17  
18 Each request for an IR flight will be ordered by 1500 daily. An IR aircraft order form must be completed,  
19 and a new request number will be assigned each day. An infrared scanner form needs to be completed  
20 on the NIROPS Web site at <https://fsapps.nwcg.gov/nirops/users/login>.

21  
22 This webpage will give the user step by step instructions on how to order an IR flight.  
23 User accounts can be requested by webpage or by contacting NIROPS directly 505-842-3845.

24  
25 If the website is unavailable, an Infrared Aircraft Scanner Request form (Chapter 80) will be submitted  
26 for each request. A new scanner request form must be completed and forwarded to NICC when  
27 scanning criteria or parameters change.

28  
29 When competition exists, NIROPS will set priority for airborne thermal IR fire mapping aircraft. If the  
30 incident will not be flown by NIROPS, the information will be sent back through the dispatch channels.

### 31 32 • **Great Basin IR Surge Capacity**

33  
34 End product agreements differ from a flight service contract, in that the requesting agency is only  
35 procuring the map products and GIS ready shapefiles of wildland fires; no internal operational controls  
36 from the requesting agency will apply.

37  
38 Participation by agency employees is limited to mission tasking, quality assurance, and contract  
39 administration. The requesting unit will NOT be required to complete flight following or resource tracking  
40 during the flight.

41  
42 Orders for surge capacity flights will be submitted to GBCC prior to 0900 for products needed by 0400  
43 the following day. Requests will be placed to GBCC in IROC following the same standards for NIROPS.

## 44 45 **AERIAL SUPERVISION AIRCRAFT** See *National Interagency Mobilization Guide*

46  
47 Aerial supervision aircraft will be ordered through established dispatch processes and the GBCC will advise  
48 the ordering unit of aircraft availability. The unit shall then advise the GACC whether to keep the order for  
49 a lead plane, ASM and/or air attack active in IROC, or to UTF the order.

50  
51 When competition for lead planes, ASM and/or air attack aircraft exists between dispatch centers the GBCC  
52 shall coordinate priority assignments, reassignments, and diversion of these resources. Replacement of an

incident's lead plane or air attack aircraft reassigned to another incident will be negotiated between the center and the requesting unit.

For incidents on which significant flight time may accrue, dispatch centers and the GBCC should mutually anticipate the need for relief air attack or lead plane resources.

**The following table summarizes interagency aviation supervision policy, but individual agency policy must be consulted for currency and consistency.**

Incident Aerial Supervision Requirements			
When aerial supervision resources are co-located with retardant aircraft, they should be dispatched together on an initial order to maximize safety, effectiveness, and efficiency of incident operations unless the required supervision is currently on scene of the incident.			
Situation	HLCO	LPIL	ATGS/ASM
Three or more aircraft flying missions at the same time	If no ATGS AND only rotor wing	If no ATGS AND only Fixed wing	ORDERED
Fixed wing Low Level Operations in Low light conditions	N/A	Required if No ATGS	Required if No LPIL
MAFFS / VLAT	N/A	Required	N/A
Airtanker not IA carded	N/A	Required	N/A
Level 2 SEAT w/ more than one other tactical aircraft on scene	N/A	Required if No ATGS	Required if No LPIL
Foreign Government Aircraft	N/A	Required if No ATGS	Required if No LPIL
Congested Area Flight Operations	Ordered	Ordered	Required
Periods of marginal weather, poor visibility or turbulence	Required if No ATGS/ASM	Required if No ATGS	Required
Active Duty (Non-National Guard) Military Helicopter Operations	Ordered	N/A	Ordered unless HLCO is on scene and doesn't require additional supervision
Night Helicopter water dropping operations with 2 or more helicopters	Ordered if No ATGS/AMS	N/A	Ordered unless HLCO is on scene and does not require additional supervision.
When requested by airtanker, helicopter, ATGS, LPIL or ASM	Required	Required	Required.

#### Definitions of key words used in the Aerial Supervision Requirements chart:

**Required** - Aerial supervisory resource(s) shall be over the incident when specified air tactical operations are being conducted.

**Ordered** - Aerial supervisory resources shall be ordered by the unit maintaining operational control (operations may be continued while the aerial supervisor is enroute to the incident. Operations can be

continued if the resource is not available and assigned resources are notified).

**Assigned** – Tactical resource allocated to an incident. The resource may be flying enroute to and from, or on hold at assigned airport or helibase.

**\*An aerial supervision module, lead plane or air tactical group supervisor must be ordered any time it is requested by any aircraft regardless of number or type of resources assigned. If aerial supervision is available within the local unit, it is recommended it be dispatched any time other aerial resources are being sent.**

USFS FSM 5716.32 requires an order for aerial supervision if there are 2 or more airtankers over a USFS incident.

Incident that has 2 or more branches, or smokejumper or para-cargo aircraft with 2 or more air tankers: The NWCG Standards for Aerial Supervision Guide references ordering an ATGS only for these missions. FSM 5716.32 classifies these missions as complex.

For USFS incidents an HLCO should be ordered as appropriate in addition to the ATGS.

- **Air Tactical Group Supervisor (ATGS) Aircraft**

ATGS aircraft is a fixed or rotor wing aircraft that is comprised of a pilot and ATGS for initial and extended attack response to enhance safety and efficiency of aerial and ground operations.

When requested, nationally sponsored ATGS aircraft and personnel will be dispatched for initial and extended attack fire when they are available. This includes responding to incidents outside of assigned dispatch center and GACC boundaries when requested. Normal dispatch procedures will be followed, and local dispatch centers will place orders to the GACC when the neighborhood policy is not applicable.

The status of nationally sponsored exclusive use ATGS aircraft and personnel will be updated daily as "Available GACC", in both the Tactical Report and IROC.

Call when needed ATGS aircraft will be ordered using normal dispatch procedures.

- **Lead Planes / Aerial Supervision Module (ASM)**

The ASM is a fixed wing platform that has a lead plane qualified air tactical pilot (LPIL) and an air tactical supervisor (ATS). ASMs may act as either a lead or ATGS depending on incident requirements.

When available, they will be dispatched to support large air tanker assignments according to agency policy. Lead planes/ASM are multi-engine, and the pilots are IFR qualified. Flight before/after civil twilight is allowed for non-tactical flight.

Lead planes assigned to a unit may be dispatched direct to meet the unit's mutual assistance areas of influence with notification to the coordination center within **15** minutes of commitment, followed by a resource order.

The GBCC will coordinate with the appropriate dispatch center concerning lead plane availability and crew assignment.

During periods of low fire probability, it is permissible for lead planes to be used for other missions. Release of lead plane for non-suppression assignments is contingent upon the following conditions:

Airtanker pilots at the base to which the lead plane is assigned who are initial attack qualified will be coordinated with the local dispatch and GBCC.

**SMOKEJUMPER AIRCRAFT AND REQUESTS** See *National Interagency Mobilization Guide*

## • Smokejumper Initial Attack (IA) Requests

Initial Attack smokejumpers should be launched immediately upon receipt of order via phone, emailed resource order or Aircraft Dispatch form. When the order is generated in IROC the request will be for an A-#, "Load, Smokejumper, Initial Attack (SMIA)". As soon as possible after the jumpship is airborne, the sending dispatch unit shall provide a manifest by email to the receiving unit per established dispatch channels. Notification to GBCC will be made within 15 minutes of dispatch.

Aircraft delivering smokejumpers should return to a designated airport or return to the sending base before the end of the pilot's daily flight or duty limitations. The aircraft will be released in IROC at the end of its duty day to the dispatch center that is responsible for that given base. Any new requests will be ordered via IROC through established dispatching channels.

## • Smokejumper Preposition Requests

Smokejumper preposition requests will be ordered in IROC on an aircraft request for the jump ship as, "Fixed Wing, Smokejumper (FWSM)", and O numbers for the smokejumpers, spotters and agency pilots (SMKJ, SPOT, PILO). The duration of preposition may be negotiated prior to launch between the requesting unit, sending unit and GBCC. Preposition loads should be released within a reasonable time frame if they are not utilized or otherwise negotiated with management (i.e., long-term spike base, etc.).

## • Smokejumper Booster Request

When ordering a booster of jumpers, the request should be placed as individual Overhead requests, as "Overhead, Smokejumper". The mode of transportation may be filled using jump ships, driving, charter aircraft or commercial travel and can be negotiated between the requesting and sending unit with notification to the GACC. If smokejumper aircraft are used to deliver boosters, the load should travel in a jump ready configuration unless otherwise determined.

See Chapter 20 for more information on smokejumper booster overhead requests.

## • Smokejumper Bases Utilized Within the Great Basin

Movement of smokejumpers within the Great Basin will be coordinated through GBCC. During periods of high activity and upon the request of the GACC, a smokejumper coordinator may be assigned to GBCC to assist with smokejumper operations. GBCC must be notified when fifty (50) percent of the smokejumpers at a local unit have been committed.

Orders for initial attack ready smokejumpers with aircraft within the Great Basin shall be on an Aircraft resource order. Smokejumper booster orders shall be on an Overhead order.

## • Great Basin Smokejumper Base (BLM)

The primary mission of the BLM Great Basin Smokejumpers is to provide professional, effective, and safe fire suppression and fuels reduction services to BLM and interagency land managers.

The BLM Great Basin Smokejumpers operate under a BLM Operating Plan to supply dedicated "contingents" of smokejumpers to be pre-positioned upon request in Nevada, Utah, Idaho, Colorado, and Oregon, for a defined period of time. Each contingent consists of a minimum of twelve smokejumpers plus a spotter and a smokejumper aircraft. A contingent can be activated anytime aircraft are available, using an Aircraft resource order for tracking of the ship.

The De Havilland DHC-6 Twin Otter or the Dornier 228 will be the primary aircraft utilized by the Great Basin Smokejumpers. The normal configuration for this aircraft is eight (8) smokejumpers with gear plus one (1) pilot and one (1) smokejumper spotter, both of whom stay with the aircraft.



Additional smokejumpers or aircraft ordered to supplement operations will be coordinated by JFC and GBCC.

Utilization of BLM Great Basin Smokejumpers will be overseen by the BLM State Duty Officers and the Chief, Division of Fire Operations.

- **McCall Smokejumper Base (USFS)**

The primary mission of US Forest Service, McCall Smokejumpers is to provide professional, effective, and safe fire suppression and fuels reduction services to USFS and interagency land managers.

In order to maintain the flexibility of responding to several concurrent requests, the McCall Smokejumpers have two De Havilland DHC-6 aircraft with a standard load of 8 smokejumpers with gear.

If the need exists for more than 8 jumpers, e.g., multiple fires requiring 4-6 jumpers each, or an emerging fire that could require 14-16 jumpers, a special request for another load can be made with no delays in the departure time.

A full 20-person smokejumper crew can be delivered to an incident where a Type 1 Crew is needed. The 20-person crew request should be used in situations where all 20 jumpers would be dropped in the same location. This 20-person crew is equipped to be self-sufficient for 2 days. No pump or hose is included with this load. Concurrence of NICC must be obtained prior to use of smokejumpers as a Type 1 Crew.

- **Other Geographic Smokejumper Bases**

- **Northern Rockies Smokejumper Bases**

- **West Yellowstone Smokejumper Base (USFS)**

The West Yellowstone jump base located in West Yellowstone, Montana (MT). Units that can order direct are Eastern Idaho Interagency Fire Center and Teton Interagency Dispatch Center.

- **Missoula Smokejumper Base (USFS)**

The Missoula jump base located in Missoula, MT.

Central Idaho Interagency Fire Center can order direct for an IA load.

- **Grangeville Smokejumper Base (USFS)**

The Grangeville jump base located in Grangeville, ID.

The Payette Dispatch Center can order direct for an IA load.

**LARGE TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT** See *National Interagency Mobilization Guide*

**HELICOPTERS** See *National Interagency Mobilization Guide*

- **Items To Consider When Ordering a Helicopter**

- **Helicopter Types and Mission Capability**

- |                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| ▪ Type I Standard           | Cargo, Water, Passengers                     |
| ▪ Type 1 Restricted/Limited | External Cargo, Water – <b>No Passengers</b> |
| ▪ Type 2 Standard           | Cargo, Water, and Passengers                 |
| ▪ Type 2 Restricted/Limited | External Cargo, Water – <b>No Passengers</b> |
| ▪ Type 3 Standard           | Cargo, Water and Passengers                  |
| ▪ Type 3 Limited            | See <i>SHO, Chapter 2, Section III</i> .     |

## • Helicopter Configuration

- Helicopter with bucket or longline.
- Helicopter should be initial attack ready.
- Tank or bucket only.

## • Helicopter Capability

- Operating environment (temperature and altitude).
- Minimum passenger load consideration.
- Minimum internal/external load requirement.

## • Special Mission Capability

- Longline
- Aerial firing
- Helicopter retardant
- Rappelling
- Short-haul
- Medical evacuation

## • Personnel Needs

Identify type of module needed and should it be standard configuration.  
Agency considerations about personnel.

## • Specialized Mission Qualifications

- Helitorch mixing/loading crew qualifications
- PSD Operator qualifications
- Medical personnel (EMT) qualifications
- Rappel or Short-haul qualifications

## • Specialized Equipment Needs

- Sphere dispenser with spheres
- Helitorch and fuel source
- Handheld Infrared equipment
- Port-a-tank
- Litter or other specialized rescue items
- Nets, slings & swivel (specify if non-standard)

## **EXCLUSIVE USE HELICOPTER (EU) CONTRACTS** See *National Interagency Mobilization Guide*

Exclusive use and agency owned helicopters must be ordered through normal dispatch channels.

Whenever an exclusive use helicopter fills an IROC request outside of IA, the sending unit will send a fuel truck, support vehicle, manager, and a **minimum** of 3 crew personnel. The helicopter order will be placed on an Aircraft order form with all the support/module information documented on that Aircraft request order form. Any specialty or other personnel qualification requirements (ICT4, PLDO, etc.) must also be specified.

- **Idaho Helitack BLM Type 1 helicopter**

The Idaho Helitack BLM Type 1 helicopter's primary mission is initial attack. While most effective at providing rapid initial response, the crew is well equipped to respond to extended attack incident and critical need missions on large fires. In order to retain this helicopter and crew beyond IA for extended attack incidents, or critical mission needs on large fires, a request will be made to GBCC. GBCC will coordinate these requests and any reassignments with the Idaho BLM SAM or Duty Officer. Extended attack incidents that utilize the crew to fill critical positions should immediately order replacement personnel for those positions in case the aircraft and crew are assigned.

Any unit requesting preposition of this resource and crew will specify the anticipated duration. If the aircraft and crew are not assigned to an incident during this period, they may be made available for higher priorities within the GACC or nationally.

**TYPE 1 EXCLUSIVE USE HELICOPTERS - STANDARD/LIMITED CATEGORY**

See *National Interagency Mobilization Guide*

Outside of initial attack, whenever a type 1 exclusive use helicopter fills a helicopter request the administrating/sending unit will send a fuel truck, support vehicle, and manager. Consideration should be given to logistical concerns (i.e., road access for large support vehicles, accommodations for large contract crew, etc.).

**CALL WHEN NEEDED (CWN) / ON-CALL HELICOPTERS**

When placing an order with the GBCC, the following information should be included: altitude, temperature and intended use for the incident or project. Helicopter performance, cost, configuration and location shall be considered when filling orders.

Prior to being sent to the incident or project, helicopter(s) and manager/module(s) shall be joined at a staging area away from, but convenient to, the incident/project (e.g., the nearest airport). The helicopter manager will conduct a pre-use inspection verifying that all is in order and brief the pilot on the details of the assignment.

All incident assignments require that a qualified helicopter manager and module be assigned.

During active fire season local dispatch offices must advise the GBCC of all CWN/On-Call requests/assignments made by their offices.

Contract administration shall be accomplished through the helicopter manager. The helicopter manager is responsible for conducting inspections, briefing prior to use and on scene contract administration. Helicopter managers shall verify to the using unit that these inspections and briefings have been accomplished. Specific procedures are contained in the NWCG Standards for Helicopter Operations (SHO).

DOI agencies can only order helicopter services from DOI contract sources for non-emergency use (prescribed fire, resource management projects, etc.). See DOI - OAS, OPM-39 at <https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/opm-39.pdf> for exceptions and procedures for use of USFS procured aircraft.

Reference the Interagency Tech Bulletin 2015-01 to assist in determining what agency initially hired the aircraft and if/when this should change to a different agency payment system. The helicopter/flight manager and vendor are the responsible parties in determining the initial path to take, depending on the original resource order and contract jurisdiction.

Interagency Technical Bulletin 2015-01:

[https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/migrated/aviation/tech/upload/IATB\\_2015-01.pdf](https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/migrated/aviation/tech/upload/IATB_2015-01.pdf) for further information.

For ordering CWN modules to staff CWN helicopters see Chapter 20 of this guide.

- **Type 1 and 2 Call-When-Needed (CWN) Helicopters**

Type 1 and 2 CWN helicopters are available under national contract and, with the exception outlined below, shall be ordered through the NICC via established dispatch channels. A helicopter manager (HMGB) name and contact number must be identified in the special needs. Definitions of categories (standard, restricted, or limited), as well as additional information on CWN helicopters, can be found in the National Interagency Mobilization Guide, and the NWCG Standards for Helicopter Operations (SHO), Chapter 2.

Exception Federal

Any national forest with a type 1 helicopter operating locally on a timber sale contract may use the helicopter for initial attack missions per the contract requirement in the timber sale. The following must occur:

- The helicopter can only be used for initial attack on incidents within or adjacent to the timber sale that the helicopter is working on.
- Coordination must occur between the local dispatch offices, the timber sale COR, and any other resources assigned to the incident.
- A resource order shall be submitted for documentation purposes to the coordination center.
- For any request/assignment other than initial attack on or adjacent to the timber sale procedures in the National Interagency Mobilization Guide must be used.

- **IDL Aviation Price Agreements for Call When Needed Services (IDL CWN APA) Helicopters**

IDL has IDL CWN APAs for both standard and limited Type 1, 2 and 3 helicopters. Local units in Idaho requiring IDL aviation services will order through local interagency dispatch centers utilizing established dispatch channels. A list of IDL's CWN APAs are posted under All-State Protection Agreements found on IDL's Fire Management webpage: <https://www.idl.idaho.gov/fire-management/incident-business/>

- **Type 3 CWN / On-Call Helicopters**

There are two federal procurement methods used for acquiring Type 3 CWN/On-Call helicopters within the Great Basin for federal agencies. These methods are:

- The Forest Service CWN contracts are under national contract and shall be ordered through the NICC via established dispatch channels and helicopter manager (HMGB) and contact number must be identified in special needs.
- The DOI On-Call Small Helicopter contract- administered by DOI-Acquisition Services Directorate (AQD) in Boise, Idaho.

State agencies may have state CWN procurement policies. State Annual Operating Plans (AOP) describes the use of state resources on federal incidents. Helicopters will meet Interagency Fire Helicopter Standards for operation on federal incidents.

For projects, a cost comparison must be completed by the ordering office when deciding which procurement method to use.

**Helicopter Rappellers and Aircraft**

Outside initial attack, whenever an exclusive use helicopter fills a helicopter request the administrating/sending unit will send a fuel truck, support vehicle, manager/spotter and a minimum of 5 crew personnel. Orders for rappellers with aircraft within the Great Basin shall be on an Aircraft resource order. Orders for rappel capable aircraft should be placed as immediate need, IA or for preposition planning purposes.

## Helicopter Rappelling / Cargo Letdown

Helicopter rappelling and cargo letdown operations are approved for use on all Great Basin agencies' lands, provided the agency personnel and pilot have been trained, certified, and approved in accordance with the National Rappel Guide. Helicopter rappellers shall be ordered through normal dispatch channels.

## Rappeller Preposition

Rappellers and aircraft may be ordered and mobilized for preposition purposes when multiple starts are occurring or are predicted. Preposition request will be on an A-#, as "Load, Rappellers, Initial Attack", and identified as preposition in special needs. The sending unit will assign all personnel as subordinate A-#s under the aircraft request. The duration of preposition will be negotiated between the ordering and sending units. Preposition loads should be released within a reasonable timeframe if they are not utilized or otherwise negotiated.

## HELICOPTER SHORT-HAUL RESCUE / INSERTION See *National Interagency Mobilization Guide*

### • Great Basin Short-Haul Program

Short-haul is approved as a rescue method for use on all Great Basin agencies' lands provided that:

- The mission is a life-or-death emergency.
- The rescue is conducted by qualified personnel trained in accordance with agency policy and standards.
- The individual operation has been approved by the appropriate line officer.

Agency short-haul helicopters are available from the Payette Dispatch Center and Teton Dispatch Center. Agency short-haul aircraft are ordered through normal dispatch procedures.

National Guard helicopter units in Idaho, Nevada, Utah, and Intermountain Life Flight in Utah have rescue hoist capabilities.

Requests for service are routed through the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and/ or through State Emergency Service dispatch/ communications center.

Boise Interagency Dispatch Center has an agreement with the Idaho National Guard for emergency Short-haul rescue missions. The nature of these missions require the timely deployment of resources to preserve life. This is not to be confused with the regular or long-term deployment of National Guard resources.

## HELICOPTER SINGLE SKID, TOE IN and HOVER EXIT/ENTRY PROGRAM (STEP)

All STEP approved BLM EU Helitack programs should outline STEP operations in their local aviation plans and adhere to the policies and procedures outlined in [OPM-40](#). EU Helicopter programs interested in implementing a STEP program must follow the steps for new program requests in 3.23.

### • Great Basin STEP approved Helitack Programs

- Ely
- Moab
- Salt Lake
- Las Vegas

## NATIONAL GUARD HELICOPTERS WITHIN THE GREAT BASIN

When ordering long term National Guard resources, each state has identified a single dispatch center and state liaison who will coordinate and serve as the liaison/contact for any request for Guard assets.

- **IDAHO**

All units in Idaho will order through the Boise Interagency Dispatch Center (BDC) utilizing established dispatch channels. BDC will coordinate with the IDL State Duty Officer and the IDL GBCG Representative for notification and mobilization of NG resources. The ordering dispatch center will then notify GBCC regarding the order. BDC will coordinate with the IDL State Duty Officer to place the order.

- **NEVADA**

All units within Nevada will order through the Sierra Front Interagency Dispatch Center (SFC) utilizing established dispatch channels. SFC will work with the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) duty officer and GBCG contact for notification and mobilization of NG resources. The ordering dispatch center will then notify GBCC regarding the order. SFC will contact the NDF Duty Officer to place the order.

- **UTAH**

All units within Utah will order through the Northern Utah Interagency Dispatch Center (NUC) utilizing established dispatch channels. NUC will work through the Utah Division of Forestry's duty officer and GBCG contact for notification and mobilization of NG resources. The ordering dispatch center will then notify GBCC regarding the order. Dispatch centers shall not contact the NG directly to order aircraft.

- **ARIZONA**

All requests for Arizona National Guard resources will be ordered through the Arizona Dispatch Center to the Arizona State Forestry. An informational copy of the resource order must be sent through the normal dispatch channels to Southwest Coordination Center.

- **WYOMING**

At certain times the National Guard has available helicopters, equipment and personnel that are useful in the suppression of forest and range fires on Federal and State lands. The National Guard units may be ordered through the State for state incidents or the RMACC for federal incidents. Only helicopter resources have been identified in a preseason agreement.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** In an emergency requiring rescue aircraft, dispatchers should follow local established ordering protocol for immediate and efficient dispatching of aviation resources. For more information see: <https://www.nwcg.gov/committee/hshu-ehe>

## AERIAL IGNITION

There are several approved aerial ignition devices approved for Forest Service and DOI use; the helitorch and the plastic sphere dispenser (PSD). See NWCG Standards for Aerial Ignition.

There are specific training and certification requirements for aircraft, pilots, helitorch modules and PSD operators. Qualified and current individuals must be assigned when filling aerial ignition orders for helitorch modules or PSD operators.

An exclusive use helicopter and crew who have all the components (aerial ignition equipment, supplies and qualified personnel) whenever possible. This can be accomplished on one A# that specifies the aerial ignition capability needed in Special Needs.

Orders for these resources for fire, or project use, may involve several different resource orders. Example:

Helicopter ordered on a A3, helicopter manager and helitorch module or PSD operator ordered on an O#, helitorch or PSD machine ordered on an E#, and plastic spheres, ethaline glycol, gasoline, etc., ordered on and S#.

Note: The identification of equipment at bases does not necessarily mean qualified personnel are available to operate the equipment.

• **Great Basin Aerial Ignition Equipment Locations**

<b>Unit - Base</b>	<b>Aerial Ignition Capability</b>
Arizona Strip BLM	Plastic Sphere Dispenser
Twin Falls BLM	Plastic Sphere Dispenser
Boise NF (Lucky Peak, Garden Valley)	Plastic Sphere Dispensers
Salmon/Challis NF (Challis)	Helitorch / Plastic Sphere Dispensers
Salmon/Challis NF (Salmon)	Plastic Sphere Dispenser
Sawtooth NF (Hailey)	Plastic Sphere Dispenser
Payette NF (Price Valley, Krassel)	Helitorch, Plastic Sphere Dispensers
Caribou/Targhee NF (Swan Valley, Pocatello)	Helitorch, Plastic Sphere Dispenser
Bridger/Teton NF (Jackson)	Helitorch, Plastic Sphere Dispensers
Elko BLM	Plastic Sphere Dispensers
Ely BLM	Plastic Sphere Dispenser
Humboldt/Toiyabe NF (Bridgeport)	Plastic Sphere Dispenser
Southern Nevada District BLM/ FS	Plastic Sphere Dispenser
Canyon Country District BLM	Plastic Sphere Dispenser
West Desert District BLM	Plastic Sphere Dispenser
Uintah-Wasatch-Cache NF	Helitorch / Plastic Sphere Dispensers

**AIRTANKERS** See *National Interagency Mobilization Guide*

For airtanker status see: <https://gacc.nifc.gov/gbcc/aircraft.php>

• **Very Large / Large Airtankers** See *National Interagency Mobilization Guide*

• **Modular Airborne Firefighting Systems (MAFFS)**

See *National Interagency Mobilization Guide* and the *MAFFS Operations Guide*

• **Single Engine Airtankers (SEATs)**

See *National Interagency Mobilization Guide* and the *NWCG Standards for Airtanker Base Operations (SABO)*. The guide can be found at the following link: <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/506>

Federal contracted SEATs are considered a national resource and allocated to the geographic area by

NMAC/NICC. The geographic area administering these aircraft will make them available for initial attack and extended attack fires on a priority basis.

Single engine airtankers may be used under the following conditions:

- **USDA-Forest Service**

The Forest Service may use SEATs contracted by cooperators (for example, DOI or State agencies) provided they meet the requirements in FSM 5713.44.

- **DOI**

DOI contracted SEATs are a national resource and their primary mission is initial attack. Once allocated to the geographic area, mobilization is managed by the local dispatch centers with support from the GBCC aircraft desk and aviation managers.

Operational considerations concerning SEATs can be referenced in the DOI Exclusive Use SEAT SOPs, SABO and the NWCG Standards for Airspace Coordination.

Nationally on call contracted SEATs will be dispatched for initial and extended attack fire when they are available. This includes responding to incidents outside of assigned dispatch areas and GACC boundaries when requested. Established dispatch procedures will be followed, and local dispatch centers will place orders to the GACC when the neighborhood policy is not applicable.

The pilot shall be carded as either a level 1 or level 2 single engine airtanker pilot based on the following criteria:

- **Level 1-** Allows pilot to perform initial attack within the fire traffic area (FTA) without aerial supervision.
- **Level 2-** Requires aerial supervision when more than **one** other tactical aircraft are within the fire traffic area (FTA).

All SEATs will be ordered through normal dispatch channels. DOI On-Call SEAT contracts are organized by the national SEAT coordinator and allocated to the geographic area. To order a SEAT from outside of the Great Basin requires a resource order to the servicing GACC through NICC and SEAT coordinator for approval. See web page at:

<https://www.doi.gov/aviation/aqd/contracts> for contract and ordering information.

Aircraft performance and limitations should be considered when ordering SEATs. The SEAT support truck is a required component of the On-Call contract; the plane can be used while the truck is in transit from the contractor's base to the incident operating base.

DOI suppression contract SEATs work a 6 day on 1 day off schedule with no relief crew required and no permanent designated base.

DOI suppression contract SEATs will be statused as available national at the end of each day.

## **Great Basin SEAT Operations**

- **SEAT Base Hours of Operation**

During the core fire season period (June- September) Great Basin SEAT bases typically operate on a 0900-1800 local schedule. Based on local activity, and at the discretion of the state duty officers or by request from the GACC, the base hours of operation may be adjusted.



- **SEAT Aircraft Hours of Operation**

DOI National SEAT resource hours of operation are from 0900-1800 local time, per awarded contract. Deviation from these hours must be coordinated with local center manager and GBCC COD or GB Center Manager through established dispatch channels prior to deviation.

Prior to early shift activation of a SEAT the dispatch center and/or duty officer will contact GBCC COD or center manager to discuss options and rationale. The rationale for use of SEATs prior to 0900 start time may include incident objectives, imminent threats or containment completion in support of fire suppression efforts.

Adjustment to early operational hours should consider pilot duty day, additional aviation needs for supervision, GBCC's ability to support the needs of the geographic area and the impacts that an early start time could have on resource availability later in the day.

Dispatch centers will coordinate with the GBCC regarding extended staffing based on GBCC need prior to 1730 each day.

- **State Agencies**

State agencies shall adhere to the NWCG Standards for Airtanker Base Operations (SABO) when using SEATs on federal incidents. **SEATs contracted by state agencies will be released back to the home unit upon request.**

State sponsored SEATs will not leave the state without State duty office approval. Any orders will follow established dispatch channels.

State run bases and State SEAT's hours of operation will be managed by the State Fire Management Office or State Duty Officer coordinated with local dispatch centers.

Within Idaho, State SEAT and Amphibious Water Scooping (AWS) aircraft operations are conducted in accordance with the Interagency Operations Guide for Single Engine Air Tankers and Amphibious Water Scooper: Idaho Department of Lands, US Forest Service Regions 1 and 4, and Idaho BLM.

- **SEAT Manager**

A SEAT manager (SEMG) is required to provide contract administration and SEAT Base oversight. The SEMG is allowed to manage up to three SEATs. Airtanker base managers (ATBM) are allowed to oversee SEAT operations without the presence of a SEMG.

## **Water Scooping Airtankers**

CL-415 and Air Tractor 802 Fire Boss. Each Great Basin agency should have a water scooping operations plan developed (at the appropriate management level) that describes suitable water sources, public safety and invasive species control. Ordering of scoopers is through normal procedures through the GACC. CL-415's will be ordered as ATM3 with special needs of "Scooper Capabilities" and values at risk. Fire Bosses will be ordered as ATS3, special needs "Requesting Fire Bosses" with values at risk, identified SEMG or ATBM with contact numbers and airbase/airport reporting location. Fire Bosses may only be remotely managed for 24 hours.

## Airtanker Operational Procedures

### ○ Rotation

The policy found in the NWCG Standards for Airtanker Base Operations (SABO) shall be followed. The guide can be found at the following link <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/508>

### ○ Ordering of Airtankers

Movement/ordering of the airtankers will be through normal dispatching channels only.

During periods of sustained or multiple fire activity each unit shall take the necessary measures to manage pilot time and remain cognizant of both flight time and duty day limitations. Unit dispatch offices will notify the GBCC as airtanker(s) within their control reach a point at which they have 2-hours of flight time remaining.

When airtankers are ordered, as much information from the field as possible shall be provided with the initial order. This information should include but not be limited to: public and firefighter safety, types of structures at risk, fire behavior and other pertinent concerns.

### ○ Airtanker Release Locations

When airtankers are released, they should return to the current base of operations or the closest airtanker base to the incident when the mission is accomplished unless prior arrangements or coordination has been done. Aerial supervision should release aircraft to the local dispatch center that will coordinate with the GBCC as to the release location or other instructions for assignment. Airtankers will be released in IROC at the end of each shift and reordered as needed for next operational period.

### ○ Airtanker Diversion

Diversions will be coordinated through the coordination center. The priorities for airtanker and lead plane use are: (1) human life or property or resource values (2) new starts (3) other priorities established by management. Situations may develop necessitating the prompt and direct reassignment of airtankers and lead planes enroute to an incident or diverting them from a going fire.

### ○ Airtanker Base Hours of Operation

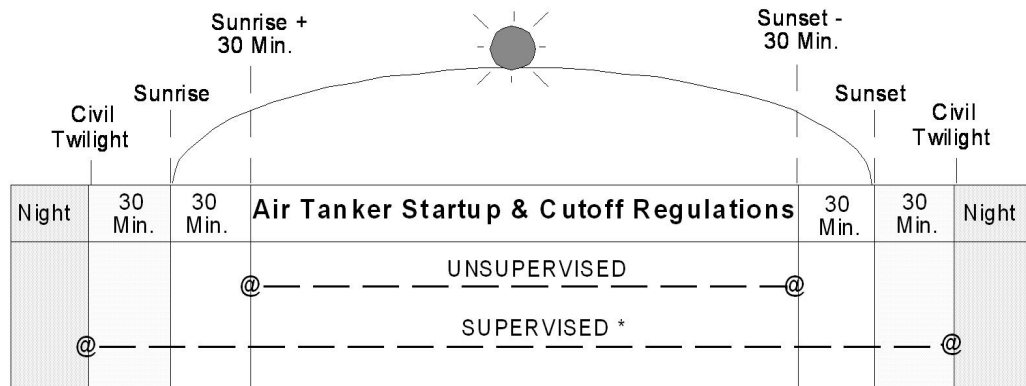
During the core fire season period (June- September) all Great Basin large airtanker bases typically operate on a 0900-1800 local schedule. Based on local activity or at the discretion of the GBCC, airtanker base hours of operation may be adjusted when aircraft are required to come on early or extend past 1800. Airtanker base hours of operations will be coordinated through normal dispatch channels. Dispatch centers will coordinate with the GBCC regarding early or extended staffing prior to 1730 each day.

### ○ Airtanker Dispatch Limitations - Start-Up/Cut-Off

Multi-engine airtankers shall be dispatched to arrive over a fire not earlier than 30 minutes after official sunrise and not later than 30 minutes before official sunset. Retardant operations are permitted after sunset but must have concurrence by involved flight crews and supervision. In addition, aerial supervision (lead/ ASM or ATGS) is required. Single engine airtankers shall comply with all single engine VFR requirements (30 minutes before sunrise, 30 minutes after sunset).

Note that the limitations apply to the time the airtanker arrives over the incident/completes its dropping activity, not the time the aircraft is dispatched from its base. The air tactical group supervisor, airtanker coordinator or air tanker pilot in command (PIC) will determine that visibility and other safety factors are suitable for dropping retardant and notify the appropriate dispatcher of this determination.

### Aviation Limitations - Start-up / Cut-off Times



@ = Arrival Over the Fire (No earlier in the morning or later than in the evening).

\* = SUPERVISED (Defined as Air Tanker Coordinator or Air Tactical Group Supervisor)

Note: Sunrise & Sunset are determined by the Official Sunrise and Sunset Tables of the nearest reload base

#### 1 RETARDANT AVOIDANCE AREAS

2 There are specified areas on each national forest in the Great Basin Area where the use of retardant/fire  
3 chemicals has been determined to adversely affect terrestrial and aquatic species. These areas are  
4 identified on the individual retardant avoidance maps located at all regional airtanker bases, dispatch  
5 offices, permanent helibases, and supervisor's offices.

6  
7 If a misapplication of retardant occurs, follow the reporting and monitoring guidance found on the USFS  
8 Aerial Application of Retardant Web site: <https://www.fs.fed.us/managing-land/fire/chemicals>

9 Reference the incident aerial supervision requirements table for additional information.

#### 10 UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS (UAS) See *National Interagency Mobilization Guide*

11 Unmanned Aircraft Systems are considered aircraft and therefore must adhere to USFS/DOI policy  
12 (including approval and carding of aircraft and pilots). UAS include everything from hand operated  
13 devices weighing less than a pound to aircraft the size of commercial airliners. UAS include any aircraft  
14 used, or intended to be used, for flight in the air with no onboard pilot.

15 UAS missions must be approved in advance by DOI (OAS) or the U.S. Forest Service, Washington Office  
16 and Regional Aviation Officer prior to use on any USFS/DOI agency projects (to include  
17 fire/incidents/prescribed fire, BAER, etc.).

18 When UAS are flown for USFS/DOI work or benefit, FAA, USFS, and DOI regulations apply.

19 Units wishing to utilize UAS must have a plan in place for how they are going to collect, process, and  
20 disseminate data gathered by a UAS. Consult with your Unit Aviation Officer or the Regional/State  
21 aviation staff to assist in selecting and ordering the aircraft best suited for the mission. For specifics on  
22 how to order UAS, please see: <https://uas.nifc.gov/uas-ordering>.

23 All UAS: Agency owned, leased, or acquisitioned must follow agency procurement policy and procedures.

#### 24 • USFS Policy

25 UAS flights under USFS operational control must adhere to USFS policy and regulations regarding  
26 their use. Guidance can be found in FSM 5713.7, the USFS National Aviation Safety and  
27 Management Plan.

## • DOI Policy

UAS flights under DOI operational control must adhere to the DOI policy and regulations regarding their use. Guidance can be found in 350-353 Department Manuals and Operational Procedures Memoranda 11: <https://www.doi.gov/aviation/library/opm>

## • UAS Rules of Engagement

The use of any UAS (including model or remote-controlled aircraft) for compensation is considered a "commercial" operation per the FAA. Commercial UAS operators must have a Section 333 Exemption and COA or Part 107 certification issued by the FAA. A list of companies with valid 333 Exemptions can be found here: <https://www.faa.gov/uas>

IMTs must notify the agency administrator prior to use of UAS. A modification to the Delegation of Authority should be considered.

Personally owned UAS or model aircraft may not be used by federal agencies or their employees for interagency fire use.

An emergency COA can only be issued by the FAA if the proponent already has an existing COA for their aircraft. The request must be accompanied with a justification that no other aircraft exist for the mission and that there is imminent potential for loss of life, property, or critical infrastructure, or is critical for the safety of personnel.

Cooperators, pilot associations and volunteer aviation groups or individuals may offer to fly unmanned aviation missions (i.e., aerial surveys, fire reconnaissance, infrared missions, etc.) at no charge to the IMTs. Although these offers seem very attractive, we cannot accept these services unless they meet FAA, USFS and/or DOI policy.

The FAA has established guidelines for hobbyists who fly model and remote controlled aircraft via Advisory Circular 91-57. Model aircraft are to be flown only for recreation or hobby purposes. For further information, refer to: [https://www.faa.gov/uas/getting\\_started/model\\_aircraft/](https://www.faa.gov/uas/getting_started/model_aircraft/)

Additional information can be found on the FAA website: [https://www.faa.gov/uas/getting\\_started/](https://www.faa.gov/uas/getting_started/)

**AIRSPACE** See *National Interagency Mobilization Guide*

## **TEMPORARY FLIGHT RESTRICTIONS (FAR 91.137).**

### • Policy

The policies and procedures found in the *NWCG Standards for Airspace Coordination* have been adopted for all agencies' use and implementation.

### • Procedures

It is essential that both local dispatch center and the GBCC dispatchers are trained in the policies and procedures found in the *NWCG Standards for Airspace Coordination* "Interagency Request for Temporary Flight Restriction" and "Documentation of Contacts Requesting Deconfliction of Airspace by the Military."

Local dispatch centers are responsible for:

- Coordinating with military units for deconfliction of Special Use Airspace (SUA) and Military Training Routes (MTR's)
- Submitting requests for temporary flight restrictions to the appropriate FAA air route traffic control center through the NOTAM Entry System (NES). Documenting the request on an A#.
- Informing the coordination center of temporary flight restrictions granted by FAA.

The coordination center upon request from a local unit, may assume the responsibility for requesting flight restrictions and/or assisting local units in deconflicting airspace with the military.

For non-fire deconfliction of airspace, refer to the *NWCG Standards for Airspace Coordination* or a local agreement (i.e., BLM and Air Force: Mountain Home, Hill, or Nellis).

If a dispatch center is experiencing high workload with airspace coordination, they may order an airspace coordinator. Additionally, military representatives to the FAA and agency airspace program managers. See *NWCG Standards for Airspace Coordination*.

## **MILITARY TRAINING ROUTES AND SPECIAL USE AIRSPACE**

See the *NWCG Standards for Airspace Coordination*. "Documentation of Contacts Requesting Deconfliction of Airspace by the Military."

Local dispatch centers are responsible for coordinating with military units for deconfliction of Special Use Airspace (SUA) and Military Training Routes (MTRs). The GBCC, upon request from a local dispatch center, may assume this responsibility and/or assist local units.

## **AIRSPACE CONFLICTS**

All airspace conflicts including accidents (mid-air collision), incidents (near mid-air collision), hazards (intrusions into airspace restricted under Part 91.137 Temporary Flight Restrictions) and other occurrences involving airspace shall be reported immediately by the individual involved with or observing the conflict to the local dispatch center or aviation manager.

Upon notification of a conflict, the local dispatch center shall immediately notify the local aviation manager and/or airspace coordinator if in place as well as the affected ARTCC. Refer to the Aircraft Conflict Initial Report: <https://www.nwcg.gov/tag/iasc>.

The local aviation manager/dispatch center shall immediately attempt to gather all pertinent details and report the occurrence to the appropriate regional, state, or area aviation manager and GBCC.

These individuals shall take all necessary action to further report the occurrence according to agency requirements (e.g., in the case of an accident or incident with potential) and shall coordinate on the immediate follow up and investigation of the conflict.

If the conflict involves a serious aviation accident involving injury or loss of life or property, the coordination center shall immediately notify the NICC and the appropriate agency aviation manager.

If an airspace conflict occurs that involves manned or unmanned aircraft, local units and/or dispatch centers will follow the NWCG UAS Incursion Protocol (PMS 520) and [IA IB 21-01](#). Each incident will be reported to the affected ARTCC, who will then report it to the Domestic Events Network (DEN). Whomever notifies the ARTCC should also notify the Interagency Airspace Coordinator via email.

See the *NWCG Standards for Airspace Coordination* for further information on airspace conflict reporting and follow up.

## **FAA TEMPORARY CONTROL TOWER OPERATIONS**

Temporary control tower assistance is available through the FAA's Western Service Area Agreement for the following states: AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NV, OR, UT, WA, and WY. (*Reference Chapter 11 NWCG Standards for Airspace Coordination*).

FAA temporary towers should be activated when conditions of visibility, or level of activity at an uncontrolled airport, are such that FAA control will enhance safety. Airport managers should be consulted, as well as pilots and aircraft managers. When an FAA temporary tower is requested, the following procedures must be followed:

## • Temporary Controlled Tower Operations within Great Basin

Local dispatch center will submit an Aircraft request for a Temporary Tower along with the completed Temporary Tower Request form to the GBCC.

Provide the following when placing the order:

### Site Location Considerations

- Does a facility exist?
- Consider ordering air ops/helibase trailers, office trailers, etc., via an equipment order form.
- Does the facility have a good field of view, takeoff, and approach path?
- Does the facility have electrical and/or phone capability?

### Other considerations

- Estimated times of operation (sunrise to sunset)
- Estimated duration of incident
- The names, telephone numbers and e-mail/internet addresses of the local unit contacts.

The form can be found at the following website:

<https://www.nwcg.gov/sites/default/files/committee/docs/iasc-temp-tower-request-form.pdf>

**NOTE:** FAA personnel are not committed to 14-day assignments. The FAA will handle personnel switch outs as needed and may request assistance with travel arrangements.

The FAA will be responsible for staffing appropriately to meet the request and any internal requirements. (Agency will be responsible for providing total subsistence for FAA personnel).

The local unit aviation manager is responsible for providing a thorough briefing to the FAA controllers and assist the controllers in presenting their own briefing to pilots and other interested personnel.

Ensure that adequate radio equipment is available for use. These must be 760-channel VHF-AM radios. Note that the air ops/helibase trailers come with complete radio packages.

Be aware that the FAA will issue a NOTAM (Notice to Airmen) for the airport informing the public of the change in status from uncontrolled to controlled and identifying radio frequency for contact with the tower.

Additional Needs- since the FAA does not have the support equipment necessary to establish a temporary tower, the incident should order support equipment through established ordering channels. See the *National Interagency Mobilization Guide* and the *NWCG Standards for Airspace Coordination*, Chapter 11, for a list of support equipment.

When the incident no longer needs the tower, ensure that release procedures occur through the appropriate channels and payment documents are completed.

**AIRCRAFT IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM** See IAT website: [https://www.iat.gov/docs/aircraft\\_library.pdf](https://www.iat.gov/docs/aircraft_library.pdf)

## **AIRCRAFT ORDERING / RESOURCE TRACKING**

To be able to perform timely search and rescue, local dispatch units must have a record of the complete FAA registration number of aircraft involved. This will include all aircraft, including those allowed to utilize a call sign other than the FAA registration number ("N"). Units shall use the established FAA aircraft registration ("N") number for logistical ordering/resource tracking through IROC.

**Resource orders must include the full FAA registration number for all aircraft.**

- **Tactical Aircraft Call Signs**

Local or incident tactical aircraft must use the following call sign system for radio transmissions. Abbreviation to the last 3 numbers of the FAA registration number is permitted, provided there is no duplication of the call sign with that of another aircraft.

- **Airtankers / SEATs**

Nationally assigned tanker number, for example call sign "Tanker 63." or "Tanker 830."

- **Aerial Supervision Module**

Normally assigned pilot's lead number. State of Alaska will assign "A-Alpha" and all federal ASMs will assign a "B-Bravo" as their identifier. If the aircraft is flying with only a pilot the call sign will be "Lead".

- **Lead planes**

Nationally assigned pilot's lead number, for example call sign "Lead 47".

- **Air Attack**

FAA registration number, abbreviation to the last 3 digits is permitted. For example, call sign "Air Attack 0TC." When assigned and over the incident, the air attack uses the fire name. For example, call sign "Twin Peaks Air Attack".

- **Reconnaissance**

FAA registration number, abbreviation to the last 3 digits is permitted. For example, call sign "Recon 51P."

- **Helicopter**

FAA registration number, abbreviation to the last 3 digits is permitted. For example, call sign "Helicopter 3HP."

- **Smokejumper**

FAA registration number, abbreviation to the last 2 digits is permitted. For example, call sign "Jumper 31."

## **AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT AND INCIDENT / HAZARD / MAINTENANCE DEFICIENCY REPORTING**

Any deviation from aviation policy or procedures, either on the ground or in the air, shall be reported through use of the SAFECOM report at: <https://www.safecom.gov/> (will NOT open in Internet Explorer), along with notification to the local unit aviation manager.

The agency with operational control of the aircraft at the time of the occurrence is responsible for ensuring timely submission by the observing or involved individual (i.e., flight manager) of the SAFECOM report. For aircraft enroute to an incident which are involved in an accident or incident/hazard/maintenance deficiency prior to arrival, the scheduling/sending dispatch office shall be the unit with reporting responsibility.

- **NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES FOR ACCIDENT AND MISSING AIRCRAFT**

Reference the unit Aircraft Emergency Response Plan  
Notify agency aviation managers  
Notify the GBCC and the NICC



## • Great Basin Airspace Conflict Incident Reporting Process

Any individual, regardless of agency, who observes any action that they feel has potential safety implications, should report such action on a SAFECOM. The report must be timely and factual. The report should be submitted within 24 hours of occurrence, or sooner, if immediate action is needed.

Agency Aviation Safety Manager(s) from the agency that had operational control of the incident will review and investigate the SAFECOMs. Discrepancies will be handled per agency direction. The agency on which the incident occurs will bear the cost of the investigation.

## Region 4 Backcountry Airfield Guide

Region 4 Back Country Guide describes the airfields and airstrips for Region 4 USFS, and is available at <https://gacc.nifc.gov/gbcc/logistics/aviation-docs/Completed%20Airstrip%20Booklet.pdf> on the GBCC webpage.

Backcountry airfields are identified with criteria for special use and pilot qualifications. Any air operations into these airfield or airstrips should be coordinated with local dispatch and regional aviation personnel prior to use.

## Suggested Airport Information Sources

FAA airport/facilities directory  
Western States Flight Guide  
<https://www.airnav.com/>  
<http://skyvector.com/>

**SPECIAL USE AIRSPACE (SUA).** See *NWCG Standards for Airspace Coordination* for procedures.

Dispatchers unfamiliar with the military units with whom they are dealing should refer to the Geographic Location column, then locate the applicable Special Use Airspace for the area of operations.

Points of contacts, with specific procedures for each base/scheduling agency are as follows:

Scheduling Agency	Special Use Airspace	Contacts
HILL Air Force Base	Barren MOA Gandy MOA Lucin MOA Sevier MOA RA 6402 Alpha RA 6404 - Alpha/Bravo/Charlie RA 6405 RA 6406 Alpha/Bravo RA 6407	<b>Hill AFB</b> 807-777-4404  <b>Clover Control:</b> 801-777-7575  <b>Scheduling:</b> 801-777-4401 or 801-777-9385  <b>Command Post:</b> 801-777-3007  <b>Airspace Manager:</b> 801-777-6926



Scheduling Agency	Special Use Airspace	Contacts
MOUNTAIN HOME Air Force Base	R-3202 3204 Owyhee MOAs Jarbidge MOAs Paradise E & W MOAs Saddle MOAs  <b>**MHAFB 366<sup>th</sup> will also schedule all routes for IDANG 190<sup>th</sup>**</b>	<b>366<sup>th</sup> Wing Scheduling:</b> 208- 828-4607 / 4631 / 2172 FAX: 208-828-4573 E-Mail: 366oss.ososas@us.af.mil  <b>MHAFB RAPCON:</b> Chief Controller Office 208-828-2854 / 2077  <b>Cowboy Control (MHAFB):</b> Call First: 208-828-4804 Operations Floor: 208-828-1379  <b>MHAFB</b> Airspace Manager: Byron Schmidt (use only when other coordination sources fail): byron.schmidt@mountainhome.af.mil 208-828-4722 (W) 208-631-1958 (C)  MHAFB Command Post (use only when scheduling is not available): 208-828-5800
IDAHO Air National Guard	Saddle MOA  Saddle MOA (Oregon)  R-3203  Triangle Saylor Creek R-3202 NOE (Danskin Mts)	<b>IDANG 190<sup>th</sup> Wing Scheduling:</b> <b>** All scheduling for IDANG 190<sup>th</sup> will be done by MHAFB 366<sup>th</sup> Wing Scheduling. See above.*</b>  <b>DNG 266<sup>TH</sup> RANS (Cowboy Control)</b> Airspace Scheduling: 208 828 1614 FAX: 208 828 4041  <b>Orchard Training Range</b> Scheduling/ Operations: Charles Ake 208 272 8224 Cell: 208 559 1587 FAX: 208 272 4462  <b>Range Officer:</b> CW2 Nathan Spaulding 208 272 8225 Cell: 208 841 1134  <b>Firing Desk:</b> 208-272-4444 OTA Security: 208-866-2620  <b>Army Aviation 183<sup>rd</sup> AVN BN (Helicopters)</b> Idaho only: Operations Officer: 208-272-3976 FAX: 208-272-4046 E-Mail: granger.amthor@us.army.mil  <b>Joint Operations:</b> 208-272-5755 FAX: 208-422-6262

Scheduling Agency	Special Use Airspace	Contacts
NELLIS Air Force Base	Desert MOA RA 4806 East/West RA 4807 Alpha/Bravo RA 4808 North/South RA 4809	Range Scheduling: Blackjack / Fire Reporting: 702-653-4707 Next day schedules: 702-653-7403 Weekend/Holiday: 702-653-5480  Nellis Air Traffic Control Facility: 702-652-2953 4222  Airspace Manager: 702-652-7891
FALLON Naval Air Station	Austin MOAs Gabbs MOAs Ranch MOAs Reno MOAs RA 4802 RA 4804 RA 4810 RA 4812 RA 4813 RA 4816 North/ South	Range Scheduling: 775-426-2416 or 775-426-3643  Desert Control: 775-426-2419 Weekend/Holiday: 775-426-2419  Ops Duty Officer: 775-426-2200
NEVADA Air National Guard	Low Altitude Tactical Navigation Area	Scheduling: 775-788-4595