

AFUE – Aerial Firefighting Use and Effectiveness Program

The Primary mission of FS Aerial Firefighting Use and Effectiveness (AFUE) program is to collect direct fireline observations on incidents (agency, cooperator, and partner) utilizing FS and FS contracted water and/or wildland fire chemical aerially delivered assets. Collected data and analyses will be utilized to provide program recommendation, advice and counsel to the FS Director of Fire and Aviation Management. This includes, but not limited to: aircraft fleet, program standardizations, operations, risk management/ safety, best management practices, cost efficiencies, and the development, implementation, standardization and quality assurance of aerial firefighting aviation operations. While AFUE's collection and analysis are focused on supporting FS fire and aviation managers in decision making concerning its aerial fleet and operations, data is collected across the spectrum of demand and usages by FS, partner, and cooperator incidents to document and learn about use, effectiveness, and eventually cost-effective use across interagency fire management. Due to realities of common interagency resource utilization regardless of incident jurisdiction / land ownership, AFUE's dataset contains high fidelity records associated with cooperator and partner aerial water and wildland fire chemical delivery aircraft. Beyond providing data access to partners and cooperators in the interagency fire management community, AFUE works closely with National Interagency Aviation Committee (NIAC) and its members to continually increase collaboration and leverage growing capabilities to assess aerial contributions to wildland firefighting.

At the direction of FS Washington Office Fire and Aviation Management, implemented by the AFUE Duty Officer (DO), AFUE may preposition assets in areas of elevated fire activity and/or potential. When prepositioned, AFUE personnel will coordinate with local unit(s) and agreed upon local mobilization processes.

AFUE DO: Zachary S. Holder or Acting
24hr Phone Contact: 406-329-6723

Operationally, AFUE deploys one of four dedicated "Non-standard" modules consisting of three specially trained, line-qualified firefighters. Additionally, AFUE mobilizes one data collection aircraft which may or may not overlap with a ground module. During the execution of the AFUE mission, all AFUE assets are Management Directed resources supporting national operations and are not ordered, tracked, or otherwise managed in the ROSS system. When performing the normal, management directed AFUE assignment, all mission assets will be self-status in ROSS as unavailable.

AFUE ground assets have an active tracking system displayed in AFF to facilitate consistent location verification and status in accordance with AFUE's standard operating and tracking procedures with the AFUE DO. In addition to AFUE's internal tracking and accountability practices, AFUE staff will coordinate all movement with the host incident's IC/OPS/DIVS prior to engagement and at the beginning and end of each shift.

<u>Call Sign</u>	<u>Duty Station</u>	<u>Point of Contact</u>	<u>Government Cell</u>
AFUE-Ops (DO)	Missoula, MT	Zachary S Holder	406-214-6178
AFUE-1	Missoula, MT	Erik Rodin	909-635-9437
AFUE-3	Prescott, AZ	Dan Matthews	909-635-9691
AFUE-4	Boise, ID	Shannon Moore	909-635-9624
AFUE-5	San Dimas, CA	Chris Bolz	909-635-7519

AFUE's air asset (N29M) is a management directed aviation resource. This aircraft is not ordered or assigned to wildfire incidents for fire suppression efforts. However, the aircraft and aircrew will coordinate with local dispatch centers and incident personnel before, during, and after any data collection missions under the oversight of the AFUE DO. Positive communications and flight following will be maintained with the responsible dispatch center(s) for the duration of any mission utilizing existing flight following standards. In the event of lost communications, the mission will be aborted and proper follow up will be conducted to ensure accountability. This aerial platform is staffed with a contract pilot(s) and agency aircrew, which may include ATGS, with operational and technical qualifications. The AFUE aerial platform will not impede or engage in tactical operation and operates at 10,000 AGL or higher at all times.

There is no cost to any incident for AFUE assets performing their primary mission. The modules and aircraft do not charge to the fire(s), they are funded through a separate job code.

AFUE ground personnel are Single Resource qualified individuals who may be requested to assist an incident to accomplish a critical task or overhead need. Such assistance must be requested by host incident overhead and approved by the AFUE DO. If AFUE personnel are requested and approved for operational support for more than two consecutive shifts/days, a formal resource order is required. At which point that asset will be assigned to the incident until released.

AFUE Program information website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/aviation/afue/index.html>