



## NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP

---

NWCG Briefing Paper

05/14/2020

TO: National Interagency Aviation Committee

FROM: Interagency Fire Unmanned Aircraft Systems Subcommittee (UASSC)

SUBJECT: **Update to S-373 Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Incident Operations**

**Purpose:** Proposed updates to S-373 Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Incident Operations Course

**Issue/Desired Outcome:** The Interagency Fire Unmanned Aircraft Systems Subcommittee recommends updating S-373 curriculum and standards to reflect true knowledge and performance expectations in the field. There are three recommended changes to the course:

1. Recommendation: Update S-373 Course Description page to better reflect training objectives, audience, and priorities.
  - a. Background: The UASM, UASD, and UASL positions are all referenced in the current S373 course description but as individual positions are not required to complete S373. Updating the course description to more concisely frame the audience will eliminate any further confusion.
2. Recommendation: Formally incorporate Beyond Visual Line-of-Sight (BVLOS) training into S373 required instruction as a course unit.
  - a. Background: Current and future UAS capabilities require that incident pilots have the ability, procedural knowledge, and confidence to operate aircraft BVLOS safely.
3. Recommendation: Expand and enhance S-373 instruction for aircraft coordination and separation to better prepare incident pilots for complex airspace scenarios.
  - a. Background: As the interagency UAS program expands, UAS flight profiles in complex airspace outside of a Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) is becoming more prominent, requiring a need for incident remote pilots to have an advanced understanding of airspace and digital tools beyond what is currently standard in S373.

**Contact:** Justin Jager- UASSC Chair 928-266-5672. [jjager@nps.gov](mailto:jjager@nps.gov)

**Attachments:**

1. NWCG Instructor Guide for proposed BVLOS unit
2. Expanded Briefing Paper on proposed changes to S-373