



National Wildfire Coordinating Group National Interagency Aviation Committee

NIAC-19-07

Date: 2 July 2019
To: Mike Reid, Chair, Aviation Risk Management Subcommittee
From: Joel Kerley, Chair, National Interagency Aviation Committee
Subject: Tasking – Aviation Risk Management Workbook Validation

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Purpose: In coordination with NWCG Publications, update the 2011 BLM and USFS Aviation Risk Management Workbook assessments for specific fire missions and programs and establish risk assessments for fire missions and programs not previously identified in the workbook.

Background: In 2006, the BLM and USFS collaborated on the development of aviation safety assessments. The first assessments were completed by Interagency Subject Matter Experts (SME) in March of 2007 and the products were made available online in May of 2007. The fourth revision, completed in August 2011, is posted online and has been distributed in hard copy in the Aviation Risk Management Workbook (aka Yellow Book).

Currently, many versions of aviation safety assessments exist among the bureaus and agencies. The most central distribution of the Yellow Book contents can be found on the USFS Aviation Safety website, Risk Management section. Because worksheets are documented in various guides and handbooks, it is imperative that the aviation risk assessments be regularly vetted by SMEs and hosted at one central location.

In June 2019, NIAC made the decision that the BLM and USFS Aviation Risk Management Workbook would become an NWCG Publication with the Aviation Risk Management Subcommittee (ARMS) as the steward. Because aviation safety assessments, with few exceptions, have remained static, the Aviation Safety Managers from the BLM and USFS request, the establishment of a tri-annual update by each aviation sub-group under NIAC.

Issue/Action Requested:

1. Review current aviation risk assessments using appropriate Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) within the sub-committees listed above to:
 - a. Establish if it needs to be updated (if not, reply back to NIAC Chair that the risk assessment is current and needs no updates).
 - b. Identify and process new hazards,
 - c. Validate existing hazards (i.e. removed a specific flight profile, mission or piece of equipment),
 - d. Evaluate change (new equipment, mission or operation) for transfer of risk and,
 - e. Evaluate mitigations for effectiveness and validity.
2. Establish new risk assessments for airtanker base operations and fire UAS operations.
3. Identify a group of SMEs to engage the project using the standard Risk Assessment template (spreadsheet).

4. The Risk Assessment Matrix, Severity Scale and Likelihood Scales will all remain the same as listed in the current Aviation Risk Management Workbook and appropriate interagency guide or standards (reference Risk Assessment spreadsheet tabs)
5. Update or establish the Risk Assessment per your specific subcommittee and fire mission/program and send to the Chair of NIAC.
6. Validated and completed Risk Assessment will be vetted, dated and posted to the NWCG – NIAC link and posted in Resources.
7. This shall remain an annual tasking for the sub committees to re-visit, with a minimum of revision every three years. (Tri-annually).

Contact Information: Michael Reid, Chair, Aviation Risk Management Subcommittee, michael.reid@usda.gov or 208-373-3853.

Attachments: None

cc: Jesse Bender, NWCG Publications Manager