



National Wildfire Coordinating Group National Interagency Aviation Committee

NIAC-20-02

Date: 30 March 2020
To: Leon Ben, Chair, Fire Management Board
From: Joel Kerley, Chair, National Interagency Aviation Committee
Subject: Adjustments to Aviation Qualifications in response to the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) Pandemic

The purpose of this memo is to provide the Fire Management Board (FMB) with recommended guidance to aviation qualifications for wildland fire preparedness for the 2020 Fire Year.

The National Interagency Aviation Committee (NIAC) has carefully analyzed the risk of responder exposure to the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in relationship to the aviation refresher training requirements of wildland firefighters.

For employees who have not completed triennial aviation refresher training requirements to date to maintain currency, a one-year extension will be added to the current expiration date. Currency will be identified in IQCS and implemented nationally through the agency's National Training Officer. Interagency efforts are underway to develop recommended pertinent information, which can be used in lieu of the traditional formal training.

Refresher courses include:

- Single Engine Airtanker Manager Workshop, RT-273;
- Helicopter Manager Workshop, RT-372;
- Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Incident Operations Refresher, RT-373;
- Air Tactical Group Supervisor Refresher, RT-378;
- Airtanker Base Manager Workshop, N-9057

For Modular Airborne Fire Fighting Systems (MAFFS) position re-currency is to attend a MAFFS exercise or activation every 3 years. A one-year extension will be added to the current expiration date. MAFFS operations refresher includes:

- MABS-MAFFS Airtanker Base Specialist
- MABM-MAFFS Airtanker Base Manager
- MALO-Assistant MAFFS Liaison Officer
- MLO-MAFFS Liaison Officer

If the individual agencies would like to offer virtual refresher courses then every attempt should be made to attend by those set to expire in 2020. However, if unable to the extension should be granted.

Background: Based on the current situation and guidance related to COVID-19, the goal is to reduce impact and exposure to our employees while maintaining our ability to respond to incidents and carry out mission critical wildland fire activities.

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