




**National Wildfire Coordinating Group**  
**National Interagency Aviation Committee**

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**NIAC-20-10**

**Date:** 12 January 2021  
**To:** Members, Scooper Aircraft Operational Procedures Task Team  
**From:** Joel Kerley, Chair, National Interagency Aviation Committee   
**Subject:** Tasking – Development of Scooper Operating Procedures

**Purpose:** The purpose of this memo is to provide the members of the task team with the direction needed to develop Scooper Aircraft Operational Procedures.

**Background:** In 2019, NIAC members discussed the desire of federal partners and industry representatives to formalize the standard operating procedures for Fire Boss scooper aircraft. NIAC reviewed the Fire Boss curriculum and determined the focus is specific to flying the airplane. Based on this information, the emphasis of the operating procedures will be to identify how the aircraft operate within the Flight Traffic Area (FTA) for wildland fire. Additionally, coordinate with the Interagency Aerial Supervision Subcommittee (IASS) as needed. The information will be added as a section to the *NWCG Standards for Aerial Supervision*, PMS 505.

**Issue/Action Requested:** Develop Fire Boss scooper aircraft operational procedures for issuance as a section to the *NWCG Standards for Aerial Supervision*, PMS 505.

**Timeline:** A meeting with members of the group will be convened within 30 days to begin work on this tasking.

The coordinator of the task team will provide an update to NIAC on the work of the group by 31 March 2021

Final draft publication submitted for approval to NWCG by 30 November 2021.

**Members:**

- Chief Pilots of Large Scoopers – Jason Robinson (Aero Flite), Jesse Weaver (Dauntless)
- Lead Plane Pilot (float qualified) – Dolan McDonald
- ATGS/ASM – John Casey
- SEAT Manager – Christina Curtis
- AFS – John Softich
- FS Scooper Manager – Michael Bassett
- SMS/Safety – Kirk Rothwell and John Mills
- NWCG Publications – Jesse Bender (Coordinator)

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