

2024 Airtanker AAR & 2025 Season Update

March 24, 2025

Introduction & Welcome – Justin Bohannon

Subcommittee and Unit Update – Justin Bohannon

- Justin explained the Subcommittee & Unit changes.
 - The Interagency Airtanker and Scooper Operations Subcommittee (IASOS) was created in 2024.
 - The Interagency Airtanker Base Subcommittee is now the Airtanker Base Operations Unit (ABOU) under the IASOS.
 - The Units under the former IABS are now 'Working Groups' under the ABOU.
- Some of the airtanker folders have changed with the restructuring.
- The SABO is with NWCG for publication and should be released shortly.
- There is a link on the [ABOU website](#) to provide suggestions for 6 Minutes for Safety topics.
- The Training and Qualifications Working Group is working on the biannual National Airtanker Base and SEAT Manager Workshop. It is scheduled in Tucson at NAFRI February 17-19, 2026.
- New topics have been added to the FAQ section on the IABS website.
- Justin will be the Chair of the ABOU until April 30th. Cindy Matthews will assume the role as Chair beginning on May 1st.

Program Updates

- Forest Service – Leslie Casavan. Please see attached PowerPoint.
- BLM – Kristina Curtis. Please see attached PowerPoint.
- NASF – Josh Agustin, CAL FIRE
 - T-122 is in service and at MCC and they are working on additional C-130s. TBD on where the next ones will be based.
 - They are adding FLIR cameras to some of their OV-10s.

MAFFS

- MAFFS have been approved for simultaneous fueling and retardant loading.
- The MAFFS Operating Plan was last updated in 2019. A new operating plan should be out in the next few months.
- A MAFFS Steering Committee has been formalized.
- The MAFFS Maintenance contract has been renewed.
- MAFFS was integrated into NASTA for the second year in a row. There will be another training in Channel Islands in April.
- Justin Bohannon is the MAFFS Program Manager. Kim Christensen has retired.

Mass Flow Meters

- Armando is working on an agenda for checking/calibrating meters.
- Several bases are due for additional and/or new meters.

Retardant Program

- Mike McFarlane has retired, and Robin Jermyn is the acting Branch Chief.
- The draft solicitation for a new retardant contract is being worked on.
- TBD if there will be an Operational Field Evaluation (OFE) in 2025.
- The FS wastewater code has been sent out for 2025. More information about the appropriate use of utilizing the code will be forthcoming.
- The QR code for retardant issues will be used again in 2025. The program will try to better communicate any resolutions with the people who report issues.
- Larry Robillard is working on contract modifications.

FLIGHT

- The new developer has been working on 'back-end' issues/ rebuilding.
- There is a new version that will be tested soon and will have a different look and better functionality. It will go live after it has been tested.
- Both the new and existing versions of FLIGHT will be available for a period of time.

Safety

- The QR codes are an excellent way to communicate/report information, but it is not a replacement for the SAFECOM system.
- If there are alerts/bulletins that are specific to a region, they will have a different look than the national ones (the border color will be different).
- Monitor cumulative fatigue.

Airtanker Contracting

- Landing fees for LATs/VLATs are being looked at to see if vendors can adjust their flight rate to include those estimated expenses. More information to come.
- This is the last year for NG 2.0 and NG 3.0.

Miscellaneous

- The PMS 514, NWCG Standards for Airtanker Operations has been finalized.
- Scooper Mangers will be ordered as AWSMs going forward, not THSPs. Some people will be grandfathered in as AWSMs.
- If anyone has airtanker base pictures, please save them in the shared folder. Leslie and others use them in presentations, etc.
- The Facility Investment Board has convened and is looking at airtanker bases.
- There has not been movement on the standard module configuration.
- Ensure that pricing information (schedule of items, etc.) is not posted where vendors can access/see them.