



National Interagency Aviation Committee Meeting Notes – May 2020

NIAC Members: Joel Kerley, Chair, BIA Tim Blake, NWCG John Buehler, NPS Glen Claypool, BLM Walker Craig, OAS
 Brad Gibbs, BLM Kent Hamilton, USFS Anthony Lascano, FWS Neal Laugle, NASF Paul Linse, USFS
 Brian McKee, NASF Keith Raley, OAS

Guests: Justin Jager, NPS Leslie Casavan, USFS

MAY 14 MEETING

Topic and Notes	Decision
<p>UAS Position Qualification Modifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommend update to S-373, Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Incident Operations to better reflect training objectives, audience, and priorities. Formally incorporate Beyond Visual Line-of-Sight (BVLOS) training as a course unit. Expand and enhance instruction for aircraft coordination and separation to better prepare incident pilots for complex airspace scenarios. UAS group unanimously approved the recommended changes. Proposed changes to the NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire Position Qualifications, PMS 310-1 for the Unmanned Aircraft System Module Leader (UAS L) position to have the UASSC recommend satisfactory performance as “any Single Resource Boss” as additional required experience to the UASL position. 	Approved
<p>Interagency Airtanker Base Subcommittee (IABS) – Decision on Risk Management Workbook posting to Website</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk Assessments – Develop a simple product to help someone decide if they should/shouldn’t take a flight. What are we asking for them to produce? Lots of work has been done on with fixed wing. Work to be done with rotor wing, specifically to function that people are performing. Lots of holes and gaps to fill. Good place to start CDC Wildland Fire page for helitack group. 	Decision to post the existing risk assessments in the Risk Management Workbook is awaiting response from the USFS.
<p>4. Tasking for National Association of State Foresters (NASF) Cooperator Aviation Standards for Interagency Fire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed draft tasking. Goal is to have the standard transition to an NWCG document. Gather names for a subcommittee to take charge on updating the standard. Need to determine correct chair. Smaller the group the better. Unsure if group in current structure ever held a meeting. Final review of the tasking will be sent to NIAC via email next week. 	<p>NIAC members will solicit members and send names to Joel Kerley.</p> <p>Will give Dan Smith (NASF) an update on the status of completion next week.</p>

MAY 28 MEETING

Topic and Notes	Decision
<p>Interagency Airtanker Base Subcommittee (IABS) – Airtanker Base Modules, Mass Flow Meter Calibration and Maintenance, and Risk Assessments (FS review)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Memo 20-05 – Members briefed on the ATB Module Development. Airtanker Base Managers (ATBMs) would be able to order a module of qualified personnel that can come in as an independent resource and manage their base which aids in allowing for days off and/or supplementing the existing staff due to a higher than normal volume of activity. Asking to coordinate w/GACCs to beta test modules for fire season 2020. Approved. b) Memo 20-06 – Mass Flow Meter Calibration. Forest service has a long history of working on this issue. Would like to find a long-term and viable solution to maintain calibration to the current airtanker bases’ mass flow meters nationwide. Historically, mass flow meters have been “wet calibrated” with the use of water to check the accuracy of the meter’s measurement in pounds annually. Process has been done by one agency technician for all Regions. Would like to get more agency folks certified. Would like to work with the Fire Chemical Subcommittee (FCSC) to come up with a final solution. c) Reviewed the Risk Assessments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Approved b) Approved. NIAC will draft a memo to the FCSC to make the connection for working on the mass flow meter calibration. c) Approve posting the draft version of the Risk Assessments on the website until they are finalized.
<p>Interagency Aviation Preparedness Task Team (IAPTT) – Best Management Practices for Helicopter Operations in Response to COVID-19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Task team reviewed the standards posted on the website and validated them against current direction. A few changes made and CDC updated the guidance in the last sentence. Group discussion on how extreme it is and exploring the option of omitting the sentence. There is a lot to consider with agency specific direction, direction within each incident, and so forth. Will work with the Wildland Fire Medical and Public Health Advisory Team (MPHAT) on the guidance and have them help rework the language in the last bullet. Will bring back to NIAC for review. b) Reviewed the IAPTT’s Best Management Practices for Helicopter Operations in Response to Coronavirus. Created a few mitigation measures for helicopter specific operations. Categories include: Transfer of injured or sick patient, reconnaissance or over-flight with someone other than crew members, all flights with someone on board other than pilot(s), maintenance of aircraft by individual other than aircrew/pilot/assigned mechanic, and internal cargo. Will emphasize avoiding touching face during transports and disinfect aircraft at end of mission. Language will be slightly modified and sent back to NIAC for approval. 	<p>NIAC gives full authority to the IAPTT to create their group as they see fit to complete their mission.</p>
<p>Update on Tasking for National Association of State Foresters (NASF) Cooperator Aviation Standards for Interagency Fire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion with Dan Smith (NASF) regarding the coop standards was productive and NASF believes NIAC Is on the right track. Will be moving forward with finalizing the tasking with anticipated completion by December 2020. 	