

# NWCG Standards for Airtanker Operations, PMS 514

FEBRUARY 2025

---

## Appendix A – Table of Contents

**Appendix A – Fixed Wing Scripts ..... 1**  
    Establish flight following with dispatch (National Flight Following/FM): ..... 1  
    Clearance to maneuver: ..... 2  
    Departure Briefing from Aerial Supervisor: ..... 3  
    Return: (National Flight Follow/FM) ..... 3  
    Tanker Base: (Frequency as assigned/AM) ..... 3

# Appendix A – Fixed Wing Scripts

## Establish flight following with dispatch (National Flight Following/FM):

Initial Call – Required Items	T-100 says:
1. Dispatch center/Call sign/Frequency	Prescott Dispatch, T-100, National
2. Departure Location	Off Prescott
3. Number on board	2 on board
4. Fuel of board (hours)	3 hours of fuel
5. ETE	30-minute ETE
6. Destination	to the NAFA fire
7. Confirm AFF	Confirm AFF

**Enroute:** Monitor incident frequencies as soon as possible to build situational awareness.

## 12-mile Initial Communication (Victor/AM, California-Air Tactics/FM)

Radio call to aerial supervision

Required Items	T-100 says:
1. Aerial Supervisor call sign, your call sign	NAFA Air Attack, Tanker 100
2. Location	12 miles Southeast
3. Intent	Inbound
4. Altitude	5000'

If clearance is given, continue past 7 nm no-com ring at assigned altitude, 170 kts or less and enter the Fire Traffic Area (FTA)/Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR).

Comply with aerial supervision’s instructions to working area.

If no contact with aerial supervision:

- Plan on holding outside 7 nm.
- Recheck assigned frequencies/volumes.
- Monitor air to ground for potential communication between Aerial Supervisor and ground resource.
- Try again.
- Confirm with Dispatch Center/Ground Resources if any other aircraft are on scene.
- If no contact or unsure continue to **HOLD Outside 7 NM**.
- If no other aircraft, enter the FTA as first on scene, at the Airtanker Orbit Altitude appropriate to fire elevation and contact ground resources for instructions.

### Clearance to Enter:

Required Items	NAFA Air Attack says:	T-100 responds:
1. Altimeter setting	Tanker 100, altimeter 3002	T-100, 3002
2. Clearance Altitude	Cleared in 3000'	Cleared in 3000'
3. ATGS Altitude	Air Attack is at 4000'	
4. Other aircraft altitudes	Helicopters at or below 2000'	
5. Hazards	Caution, towers, and powerlines	

### Tactical Briefing:

May be given in a variety of ways. Make sure it contains the following information:

Type	Details	NAFA Air Attack says:
Orientation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Orients pilot to specific areas of the fire.</li> <li>May be brief if returning to the same fire.</li> </ul>	Your drop will be on the left flank of the fire, working the same area as before.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tag and extend, direct, indirect, pretreat, point protection etc.</li> <li>What's to be accomplished and why?</li> </ul>	Objective is direct line, tag, and extend the line.
Target Description	<p>A standard target description includes the following:*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Target Location</li> <li>Drop objectives/Type of drop</li> <li>Coverage level</li> <li>Specific Hazards</li> <li>Portion of load</li> </ul>	Coverage level eight, full load, exit straight out, caution power lines along the road."

\*Acknowledge or clarify. "I have the target. I have the powerlines."

### Clearance to maneuver:

ATGS says:	Tanker Response – Standard Left Pattern	Tanker Response – Non-Standard Right Pattern
Clear to maneuver.	Tanker 100, Cleared to Maneuver.	Tanker 100, Cleared to maneuver right hand pattern.
*	Tanker 100 downwind	Tanker 100 right downwind
*	Tanker 100 base	Tanker 100 right base
*	Tanker 100 final	Tanker 100 final
<b>I have your final, clear to drop</b>		

\*Air Tactical Group Supervisor (ATGS) is required to clear airtankers to maneuver and to drop. ATGS is not required to acknowledge downwind and base legs.

### Go-Arounds/Split Loads:

- A go-around may be communicated by anyone for safety/efficiency. During a go-around/split load the airtanker should:
  - Re-establish downwind, **at maneuvering altitude on speed**, or:

### Off the Drop:

- If load was released, exit the FTA, **at maneuvering altitude, on speed**, or as briefed.
  - “Tanker 100 off and empty” or “Tanker 100 off the drop, half load remaining.”

### Departure Briefing from Aerial Supervisor:

Briefing Items:	NAFA Air Attack says:
1. Drop Evaluation – Start, Line, End	Tanker 100, half load late, off one wingspan right
2. Load and return/hold/release	Load and return
3. Location	Prescott
4. Special Instructions	Maintain 5000’

### Return: (National Flight Follow/FM)

Re-establish flight following with dispatch center en route back to base and communicate intentions:

Items:	T-100 says:
1. Dispatch center/call sign	Prescott Dispatch, Tanker 100
2. Departure location	Off the NAFA fire
3. Instructions	Load and return Prescott
4. ETE	12-minute ETE

### Tanker Base: (Frequency as assigned/AM)

Generally, approximately ten minutes out from your assigned tanker base, communicate the following:

Items:	Return Example, T-100 says:	Hold Example, T-100 says:
1. Tanker base/call sign	Prescott Tanker Base, Tanker 100	Prescott Tanker Base, Tanker 100
2. ETE	10 minutes out	10 minutes out
3. Load status	Load and return	Return and hold
4. Fuel Status	Negative fuel	Positive fuel