

PNWCG Aviation Policy Standards Matrix

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Document summarizes interagency operations policy and guidance. The Matrix is a living document that is updated continually. In-house (single-agency) operations may vary with in each agency. It is imperative that aviation personnel receive a thorough briefing on agency policy prior to the operational implementation of aircraft on any incident or project. Questions regarding these policies should be directed to Working Team Members and reference to specific agency policy documents.

GENERAL AIR OPERATIONS	DOI	ODF	USFS	WDNR
Policy/Procedure	350-354 DM & OPMs	Av Procedures Manual	5700 Manual	Agency Plan
Project Safety Plans	Yes	District Safety Plan	Yes	No
IHOG Adopted as:	Policy ¹	Guidance	Policy ²	Guidance
Pilot Quals:				
Federal aircraft/pilot approval ⁴	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Agency Fleet Aircraft	Yes	Not Always	Yes	Not Always
Exclusive Use Contracts	Yes	Not Always	Yes	Not Always
CWN/non-reimbursable- /Coop/ANG/COMPAC Regular Military ³	Usually Not	Usually Not	Usually Not	Usually Not
Flight Crew Hours:				
Flight/Duty/Rest Days Off	8/14/10 2/14	8/14/10 2/14	8/14/10 2/14	8/14/10 2/14 *7 on the hook
Aircraft Refueling:				
Hot refueling w/approved tank and closed circuit system	Per Contract	Yes	Per Contract	Yes
Splash Refueling (not closed circuit) ⁵	Per Contract	Yes	Per Contract	No ⁶
Flight Following:				
General Flights	Per Bureau	FAA or 15 min agency	FAA or 15 Minutes agency/AFF	FAA or 30 Minutes agency
Special Use (higher hazard)	Per Bureau/not>1hr	15 min	15 min	15 min
PPE requirements for helicopter flights:				
Nomex flight suit or Nomex pants and shirt, leather boots, gloves, and flight helmet ⁷ . <i>Hard Hat may be substituted for flight helmet for these exceptions;</i>	Large fire crew transport per IHOG	Fire Crews	Large fire crew transport per IHOG	Fire Crews
Hazardous Materials	Per FAA Special Permit Auth.	49 CFR 172-175	Per FAA Special Permit Auth.	49 CFR 172-175
Helicopter Manager/Module required per each helicopter	Yes ⁹	No	Yes ⁹	No
Crew Members Allowed on Bucket/Sling Flights	No ⁸	No	No ⁸	No ⁸
Supervised Landing/Unloading	Manager/Module	PIC Responsible	Manager/Module	PIC Responsible
High Wind Limitations	Gusts limits by type Per IHOG	PIC Decision	Gusts limits by type Per IHOG	Steady 30 knots or 15 knots gust spread

¹ IHOG is Fire Aviation Policy for all Bureaus' i.e. FWS, BLM, BIA, etc., but compliance of individual tribes is tied to federal funding.

² Helicopter Flight Manager position does not meet Forest Service standards for helicopter management and is not to be used for any Forest Service helicopter operations. (Ref: FSH 5109.17).

³ Military and National Guard pilots are required to have a minimum of 500 hours in accordance with the Military Operations Handbook.

⁴ Federal Employees may only fly aboard aircraft that meet Federal Approval.

⁵ When approved in the contract and only when ordered by the government.

⁶ WDNR allows splash hot refueling only in life threatening emergencies only.

⁷ WDNR allows observation flights when only headsets are available on contract aircraft until flight helmets become available.

⁸ Aircrew members essential to the activity may be transported internally while carrying external loads under certain circumstances with approval

⁹ Managers may manage multiple helicopters w/approval of State/Regional Aviation Manager IAW IHOG.

Disclaimer: This is a working tool only for PNWCG Geographic Area Clarification should be obtained from AWT representative