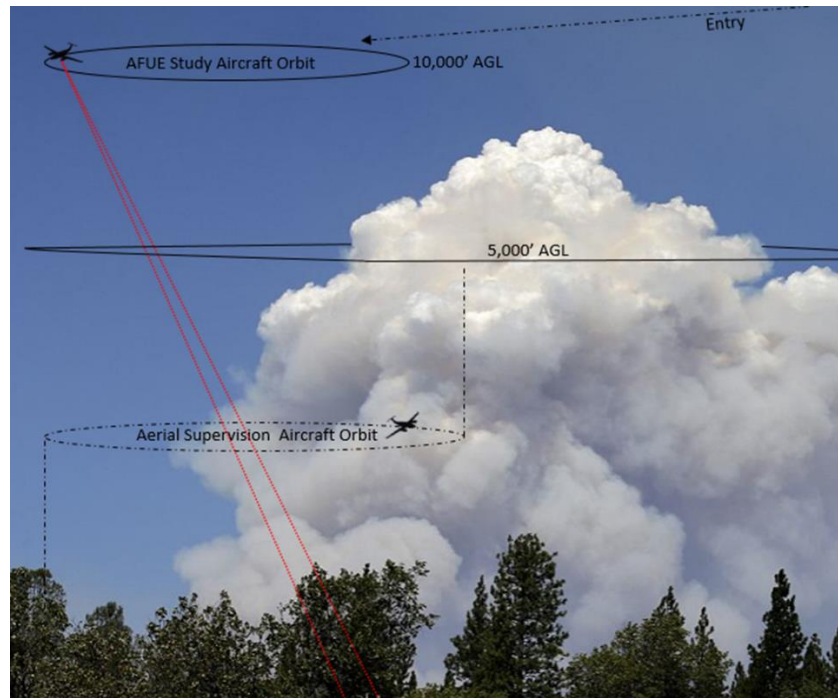


Quick Facts: Aerial Firefighting Use and Effectiveness (AFUE) Study Aircraft Operations

The Aerial Firefighting Use and Effectiveness (AFUE) Study was initiated in 2012 in order to develop and implement performance metrics to analyze aircraft utilized for aerial suppression.

The AFUE Study is supported by the Fire Executive Council, Fire Management Board, and the National Association of State Foresters.

The mission of the AFUE Study aircraft is to capture firefighting aircraft drops using an on-board sensor so that the drops' effectiveness in meeting tactical and strategic objectives can be evaluated.



- The Study employs a pressurized airplane which normally orbits over the fire at **10,000ft+ AGL** while collecting data but, on occasion, may descend no lower than **8,000ft+ AGL** in order to acquire targets.
- The Study's aircraft executes a passive data collection mission; therefore, it does not check in, nor normally communicate, with aerial supervisors. If it does need to communicate with aerial supervisors, its call sign is "**AFUE Aircraft**" (tail number TBA).
- The Study's aircraft does not execute the ATGS mission, is not resourced through ROSS, and its operations are not funded by specific fires or local units.
- AFUE Study ground and aviation resources preposition based on Predictive Services' *National 7-Day Significant Fire Potential* outlooks and current and expected fire activity. The Study then self-dispatches to wildfire incidents based on a combination of its dynamic data collection priorities and aviation resources ordered to specific wildfires.

Data collected from this Study and from other sources will eventually be utilized to inform decisions that determine the composition of the federal interagency aircraft fleet that supports the management of wildland fire.