



Interagency Aviation Information Bulletin



No. IA 2012-03

August 7, 2012

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Subject: 2012 Interagency Helicopter Operations Guide (IHOG)

Area of Concern: Helicopter Operations

Distribution: Helicopter Operations

Discussion: The 2012 version of the IHOG will not be released until February 2013. Until its release, the 2009 IHOG remains in effect as numerous Helicopter Support Kits have already been distributed from the cache system with the 2009 version. Several factors delayed the implementation of the new IHOG including plans to replace the hard copy IHOG with an electronic distribution. Due to feedback from the field, we will continue to publish a hard copy edition. The 2009 guide remains available for download on the NIFC website at http://www.nifc.gov/aviation/av_ref_ihog.html

The 2012 IHOG contains several changes associated with helibase management that should be adopted immediately and may already be required depending on the bureau or region:

- 1) A Helibase Manager Type 2 can supervise up to 5 helicopters, 6 or more helicopters would automatically require a Helibase Manager Type 1 (as identified in the 2011 PMS 310-1).
- 2) The Helibase Management Incident Complexity Analysis (attachment 1) is intended to assist an HEB2/ASGS/AOBD/Aviation Managers evaluate current helibase operations and determine if an HEB1 should be ordered for operations with 5 or fewer helicopters. This risk analysis tool attempts to quantify the complexity of an incident helibase operation and support requests for an HEB1. The form (located on page 2) should be completed by the helibase/aviation manager at various intervals throughout the incident in order to account for any operational changes and its impact on helibase complexity. This form should be routed through their respective incident supervisor.

The form is also available for download at:

http://www.nifc.gov/aviation/av_documents/av_helicopters/HMICA.pdf

If there are any questions please do not hesitate to contact your bureau or agency IHOps representative.

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Helibase Management Incident Complexity Analysis (Type 1, 2)		
6 or more helicopters utilizing helibase – Automatic Type 1 Manager required		
Incident Name: _____ Date: _____		
Number of Helicopters & Type (Machine)	Yes	No
4 or more helicopters working out of helibase		
Restricted or Limited helicopters comprise less than 40% of helibase aircraft.		
Multiple separate helibases are assigned to incident		
Incident Management (Man)		
No IMT overseeing operation/ or IMT without AOBD or ASGS and/or ATGS		
Host unit does not have “Stand-Alone” Aviation Manager or Aviation Manager is not available for assistance		
No more than 1 Exclusive Use Helitack crew on helibase		
Trainees being used in HEB positions due to shortage of qualified personnel		
Mission profiles (Method)		
Helicopters are the primary method of logistical line support due to inaccessible terrain or remote location		
4 or more 20 person crew shuttles per day		
10 or more external load cargo missions per day		
Tactical water/suppressant delivery is NOT the primary missions		
Specialized missions ongoing (Law Enforcement, S&R, Fire-Line-Explosive, Rotor Wing retardant, etc.....)		
Multiple incidents are being supported out of the helibase		
Operational environment (Medium)		
Complex airspace issues (multiple MTRs, MOAs, SUAs etc.....)		
Helibase located at an airport with a moderate amount of GA activity		
Helibase communications questionable, (Flight following, command, etc.....)		
Additional incidents within close proximity		
Frequent smoke inversions or weather complications (morning or afternoon)		
High & Hot environment		
Incident within Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)		
Multiple Jurisdictions land involved in incident (Fed + State lands)		

If you have checked “Yes” on 10 or more of the analysis boxes, consider requesting the next level of helibase management and/or limit aviation flights until corrections can be made.

Completed By: _____ Date: _____

Management Recipient: _____ Date: _____