



Interagency Aviation Training (IAT) Supplemental Information



IAT Agency Certification

The education and training of personnel at all organizational levels is the responsibility of management. Aviation users, supervisors, and managers must be knowledgeable of the inherent hazards of aviation operations. Training is essential for employees whose operations are performed in the high-risk environments typically encountered in agency programs and projects. *See the FHP Operations Plan for FHP's requirements Matrix and the FHP Aviation Training website for additional resources including the FHP Matrix and Supplement, Task Books and requirements for all positions and scheduled events www.fs.usda.gov/foresthealth/applied-sciences/aviation/training.shtml.*

IAT Guide Aviation Position Definitions

Aviation Dispatcher

A dispatcher who may receive, process, and place orders for aircraft, provide flight following and other aviation support services.

Flight Follower

A government employee who is responsible for monitoring aircraft flight activities in accordance with DOI/bureau and USDA-FS policies. They may work in a Dispatch Center, or at a remote location, where they monitor flights by radio or satellite tracking systems, and could initiate an aircraft mishap emergency response, when needed. Additional training may be specified by each bureau or agency. *This includes FHP or other support personnel providing flight following services for aerial survey, aerial application, remote sensing and other special missions. This position should be utilized only under special circumstances where Agency flight following is unavailable. Training requirements for FHP are highly recommended for cooperator personnel conducting special use missions autonomously (under their operational control) and required where cooperators and FHP operate together or their operations are otherwise determined to be under Agency operational control (such as participating as aircrew or managing USFS contracted or owned aircraft, and in cases where FHP personnel participate on approved cooperator aircraft).*

Project Aviation Manager

An individual who plans, organizes, and manages the aviation operations of a project utilizing aircraft. The Project Aviation Manager may or may not be at the site. *This would include managers overseeing FHP projects such as aerial application for: Spongy moth, spruce budworm, Douglas-fir Tussock Moth, Douglas-fir beetle, use of herbicides, and other projects involving special missions.*



Aviation Manager

A person with aviation management responsibilities for an aviation program at the unit, state, regional, or national level serves as the focal point for aviation services and management. These include such positions as Unit Aviation Officer (UAO), Forest Aviation Officer (FAO), Unit Aviation Manager (UAM), state, regional, and national aviation program managers, and helicopter and fixed-wing operations specialists. *This would include FHP Aerial Survey Program Managers and/or someone functioning as the FHP UAO, which could be at the regional or field office level and includes the FHP National Aviation Safety Manager and Aerial Detection Survey Program Manager.*

Aerial Survey Observer

FHP Aerial Survey Observers must initially meet Aircrew Member requirements prior to participating in aviation operations and progressing through the task book. FHP's task book now includes two tracks for Aerial Survey Observer and Fixed-Wing Flight Manager – Special Use. The observer has responsibilities and training requirements typically associated with aircrew member while focusing on the technical aspects of aerial mapping and safety, the task book presents development opportunities into the FWFM-SU position depending upon the individual's and aviation unit's needs. *Training requirements for FHP are highly recommended for cooperator personnel conducting special use missions autonomously (under their operational control) and required where cooperators and FHP operate together or their operations are otherwise determined to be under Agency operational control (such as participating as aircrew or managing USFS contracted or owned aircraft, and in cases where FHP personal participate on approved cooperator aircraft) [see May 2018 task book for more information](#).*

Fixed-Wing Flight Manager - Special Use

A government representative who works jointly with the pilot-in-command and aircrew members to ensure safe, efficient flight management of missions other than point-to-point flying (e.g. reconnaissance, infrared, aerial photo), and other missions requiring special training and/or equipment. Refer to specific agency policy for a complete listing of Special Use missions. *An FHP flight manager conducts sketchmapping surveys or remote sensing and works in a hazardous environment even with good, sound Operational Risk Management. The position requires additional training besides the "minimum" IAT Guide requirement, such as the Task Book for the position of FHP Fixed- Wing Flight Manager – Special Use (FWFM-SU) and meeting IAT Guide requirements on a three-year re-currency; the 2018 Task Book includes two tracks, one for the FHP Aerial Observer and one for the fully qualified FHP FWFM-SU. Once qualified, FWFMSUs maintain currency according to the FHP Matrix for "Standard", UATAs evaluate performance and currency promoting FWFMSU to "Experienced" training plan within AT2.0 (for more information on these experience tracks see FHP Matrix). Training requirements for FHP are highly recommended for cooperator personnel conducting special use missions autonomously (under their operational control) and required where cooperators and FHP operate together or their operations are otherwise determined to be under Agency operational control (such as participating as aircrew or managing USFS contracted or owned aircraft, and in cases where FHP personal participate on approved cooperator aircraft).*

Helicopter Manager - Resource

Is responsible for coordinating, scheduling, managing, and supervising non-fire resource helicopter operations. Fire Helicopter Manager training and experience requirements are found in the PMS 310-1 and specific agency and bureau policies. *Currently, qualified Helicopter Managers (HMBG-NWCG) through PMS 310-1 satisfy the Helicopter Manager-Resource requirement. This position also requires additional training beyond the minimum IAT courses, to include completion of the position task book for All-Hazards/Resource Helicopter Manager and meeting IAT Guide requirements on a three-year*



re-currency. Training requirements for FHP are highly recommended for cooperator personnel conducting special use missions autonomously (under their operational control) and required where cooperators and FHP operate together or their operations are otherwise determined to be under Agency operational control (such as participating as aircrew or managing USFS contracted or owned aircraft, and in cases where FHP personnel participate on approved cooperator aircraft).

USDA-FS Remote Pilot (UAS)

USDA-FS personnel who fly UAS on behalf of the USDA-FS, must be trained per agency UAS policy. As the UAS program is developing, UAS operations are rare within FHP; however, have occasionally been contracted or conducted under grants and agreements. Agency infrastructure and policy has matured and training is now open more broadly to resource aviation users, UAS use is expected to increase. Recommend regions begin developing employees for technical support functions and/or remote pilot through individual development plans at the unit level on a case-by-case basis.

Supervisor

A supervisor in this context is one who supervises an employee who performs aviation duties as part of their primary or collateral duties. Both the Supervisor and the employee being supervised are Forest Service employees. Examples of employees who perform aviation duties include but are not limited to: Forest/Unit Aviation Officer, Helicopter Manager, Air Tactical Group Supervisor, Air Tanker Base Manager, Fixed-Wing Flight Manager, UAS Pilot, and employees required to complete aviation training to meet agency objectives. *Knowledge required includes aviation safety, policy, risk management, and other responsibilities for immediate supervisors. Depending on unit-specific structure and oversight could include FHP Directors, Deputy Directors, Field Representatives, Group and Zone Leaders. Second-level supervisors are not required to meet requirements for immediate supervisor; however, participation in all courses required are recommended and especially useful for orienting new leadership. A-314 Aviation Program Overview for Agency Administrators is required every three years to discuss current policy and procedures, responsibility and liability, risk management, decision space, etc. and address any specific concerns among supervisors and leadership. For assistance determining requirements where unique supervisory situations exist, contact the FHP National Aviation Safety Manager and Aerial Detection Survey Program Manager.*

USDA Forest Service Manual (FSM) 5700 AVIATION MANAGEMENT

5703.3 - Training and Qualifications

Only qualified personnel must accomplish and/or supervise agency aviation operations and projects. A qualified evaluator or trainer must supervise trainee participants during aviation operations and projects.

All personnel involved in aviation operations must receive the appropriate training and meet the experience requirements specified in the fire and aviation management qualifications in FSH 5709.16, the Forest Service Fire and Aviation Qualifications Guide, the Interagency Wildland Fire Qualifications System Guide, and/or the Interagency Aviation Training Guide, prior to participating in aviation missions, operations, or projects (Refer to FSM 5706 for additional guidance).

For any questions or additional information contact your Unit Aviation Officer or the FHP National Aviation Safety Manager and Aerial Detection Survey Program Manager.