

Annual Preparedness Standards for Exclusive Use Helitack crews located or hosted within the USFS Intermountain Region (R4)

In addition to mandatory annual training (Civil Rights, computer security, Fire Refresher, etc.), the following must be completed each year prior to any R4 Exclusive Use Helitack crew and helicopter being made available for assignment.

Helitack Refresher Each member of the Helitack will complete an annual Helitack refresher course (8 hours minimum) inclusive of:

- Crash rescue procedures and fire extinguisher use
- In flight emergency procedures (pilot must be present to brief the crew on actions to be taken in flight, post crash egress/extraction, water ditching, etc.)
- Aircraft weight and balance, performance planning and load calculations (multiple makes/models)
- A-219 long line refresher including practical exercise.
- Helispot management. (Complex vs. simple, logistical needs, communications, etc.)
- Helispot construction. (Size, complexity, expansion if needed)
- Dip site management (when needed, communications, rescue preparedness)

Change in make/model aircraft of the same class. It is recommended at those times when a crew has a new make or model of aircraft come on that a minimum of 3 hours flight time be used (including the long line practical) to familiarize the crew with the aircraft and orient the pilot to local operations.

Change in aircraft class or complexity (i.e. changing from a Type II to a Type I or changing to an aircraft utilizing two pilots. In the event of this type of change the crew will be allotted a minimum of five hours flight time to adequately familiarize themselves with the aircraft, establish CRM with the pilot(s) and establish operating procedures with the aircraft. Flight time and training should include:

- Practical long line training and equipment use.
- Airspace familiarization, i.e. operations in or around class B or C airspace, Forest aerial hazards orientation, military operations areas, etc.
- Preplanned simulated IA fire exercise with AAR.
- Two pilot/manager radio communications
- Unplanned simulated IA fire exercise. (Preplanned and coordinated between FMO, Helitack Supervisor and Dispatch only)
- Misc. (Mission planning and completion of project work, landing site evaluation flight, extra time for rappel training, etc.)
- Emergency procedures
- Aircraft weight and balance as related to seating arrangements