



**File Code:** 5700  
**Route To:**

**Date:** APR 16 2019

**Subject:** Approval of the US Forest Service National Rappel Operations Guide, 2019

**To:** Regional Fire Directors, Regional Aviation Officers, Regional Aviation Safety Managers, and Rappel Base Managers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service National Rappel Operations Guide is approved as program direction for all Forest Service rappel operations.

On February 6, 2019, the USFS Helicopter Rappel Equipment Transition Plan & Decision Guide was approved.

The Helicopter Rappel Equipment Transition Plan and the 2019 National Rappel Operations Guide provide the necessary guidance and standards for the program to fully transition to the next-generation rappel equipment in 2019.

At a minimum, all rappel check spotters shall attend a next-generation rappel equipment Train-the-Trainer session. All rappel spotters and rappellers shall attend a national rappel academy to ensure transition standardization.

Questions regarding this operations plan should be directed to Eric J. Bush, the Forest Service National Rappel Program Manager at [ejbush@fs.fed.us](mailto:ejbush@fs.fed.us).

SHAWNA A. LEGARZA, PSYD  
Director Fire and Aviation Mgt

Enclosure

cc: Jeff Power, Paul Linse, John Nelson, Kent Hamilton, Mary Verry, Rock Parrilla, Aaron Schoolcraft, Tonya Rymer, Eric Bush

