

**Forest Service Handbook
National Headquarters - Washington Office
Washington, DC**

**Forest Service Handbook 5709.16 – Flight Operations Handbook
Chapter 60 – Aviation Training**

Amendment: 5709.16-2020-7

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Duration: This amendment is effective until superseded or removed.

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Digest: Following is an explanation of the changes throughout the directive by section.

60: This amendment substantially revises the entire chapter to better align with the Forest Service mission. Changes chapter title from “Aviation Security” to “Aviation Training” and sets forth direction.

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Forest Service aviation training is essential to provide standardization, proficiency, and risk management to aircraft pilots (both contract and employee), aviation users, Supervisors, and Managers. The Forest Service Aviation Training Program is a “fire” and “non-fire” system. The National Wildland Coordinating Group (NWCG) guides the fire qualifications (Forest Service Fire and Aviation Qualifications Guide), while the Interagency Aviation Training (IAT) Guide regulates the non-fire qualifications. Personnel serving in NWCG positions must meet the qualification and currency requirements listed in PMS 310-1, the Forest Service Fire and Aviation Qualifications Guide, FSM 5700, and FSH 5709.16.

60.1 – Authority

Refer to FSM 5701.

60.2 – Objective

The objectives of an aviation training program are to improve standardization, proficiency, and risk management by ensuring employees are trained and qualified in aviation operations.

For additional information, refer to FSM 5702.

60.3 – Policy

Refer to FSM 5703.

60.4 – Responsibility

60.41 – Aviation Training Program Manager

The Washington Office Aviation Training Program Manager reports to the Washington Office Branch Chief, Aviation Strategic Planning. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

1. Provide leadership, expertise, standardization, coordination, and oversight for the Agency aviation training program, which includes all aviation-related training for employees, except for pilot, flightcrew, and aircrew training identified in FSH 5709.16, chapter 50;
2. Coordinate aviation course development, training, and course instruction with the appropriate Aviation Program Manager or Branch Chief; and
3. Understand, implement, and maintain the responsible areas of the Forest Service Aviation Safety Management System (ASMS) within the scope of their duties.

60.5 – Definitions

Refer to FSM 5705.

60.6 – References

Refer to FSM 5706.

60.7 – Quality Assurance

Refer to FSM 5717.

61 – All Employees

All agency flightcrew and aircrew should refer to FSH 5709.16, Chapter 50 for training specific to the safe operation of aircraft.

61.1 – Fire-Related Positions

Refer to the Forest Service Fire and Aviation Qualifications Guide and the PMS 310-1 for Forest Service fire aviation positions and qualifications.

61.11 – Fire and Aviation Trainees

Position task books can be initiated before attendance and successful completion of required training.

Positions without position task books must utilize the training, certification, and currency requirements in the applicable agency or interagency operations plan or guide.

61.2 – Non Fire-related Positions

Refer to the Interagency Aviation Training (IAT) Guide for Forest Service non-fire aviation positions and qualifications.

1. Aircrew member,
2. Aircraft/aviation dispatcher,
3. Aviation Manager,
4. Fixed-wing Flight Manager,
5. Fixed-wing Flight Manager (special use),
6. Helicopter Manager-resource,
7. Project Aviation Manager,
8. Supervisor, and
9. Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) remote pilot (non-fire).

62 – Instructor Requirements

The Interagency Aviation Training (IAT) guide identifies instructor requirements for IAT specific courses. Refer to IAT Guide Part 3, Interagency Aviation Instructor Requirements.

Personnel serving in NWCG instructor positions need to meet the qualification and currency requirements in Forest Service Fire and Aviation Qualifications Guide and the PMS 901-1 Field Manager's Course Guide.

Personnel instructing certain aviation training such as, but not limited to, spotter positions, flightcrew and aircrew positions, air tactical Supervisor, and so forth must meet the requirements for instructor or evaluator in specific agency or interagency policy or guides.

63 – Records Management

Fire and aviation qualification training records must meet the requirements stated in the Forest Service Fire and Aviation Qualifications Guide for all NWCG qualifications. At the Regional or Forest level, all training records for non-fire qualifications (IAT, ISBAO, QTI, and so forth.) must reside with the Supervisor, Regional Training Officer, Forest Training Officer, or the Forest Aviation Officer.

Washington Office Supervisors shall maintain employee non-fire qualifications in the Employee Development Record (EDR) file.

Each operating unit needs to develop and implement plans for the identification of initial and recurrent aviation training needs specific to its missions.

Areas of aviation training are:

1. Orientation and basic aviation safety for all users.
2. Flight Manager Training.
3. Dispatching and flight-following procedures.
4. Management of aviation operations and equipment.
5. Planning, risk assessment, and execution of projects using aviation resources.
6. Proficiency and special use mission training for pilots.
7. Technical training on aviation equipment and aircraft maintenance.
8. Advanced ASMS and quality assurance for aviation professionals and specialists.

64 – Tuition and Travel

Forest Service management is dedicated to conducting or providing for professional and technical training of employee or contract personnel at all levels of the organization that use and/or influence the use of aviation resources. Supervisors must provide adequate levels of funding for the tuition and travel to attend training that will maintain aviation personnel currency and advance their skills.

65 – Development

The Forest Service encourages development of interested employees who desire to pursue an aviation career path.

Employees in aviation developmental positions and all positions that have aviation responsibility are advised to attend courses that encompass aviation skills and knowledge.

65.1 – Aviation Career Paths

Reserved.

65.11 – Pinch Hitter

The vendor selected for training must be 14 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR), Part 141 certificated for providing the specific training.

65.12 – Flight Training Instruction

The vendor selected for training must be 14 CFR, Part 141 certificated for providing the specific training.

65.13 – Special Use Mission Flight Training

The vendor selected for training must be 14 CFR, Part 141 certificated for providing the specific training.

65.13a – Initial Qualification

The vendor selected for training must be 14 CFR, Part 141 certificated for providing the specific training.

65.13b – Recurrent

The vendor selected for training must be 14 CFR, Part 141 certificated for providing the specific training.

66 – IAT Positions to NWCG Positions Crosswalk

The positions listed in the IAT One Way NWCG Position to IAT Position Crosswalk are required training.

67 – Aviation contracting officer representative (cor) requirements

Aviation CORs must meet initial training and maintenance requirements as stipulated in Agency Acquisition Regulations (AGAR).

68 – Required Training for Aviation Positions

A Washington Office-approved Crew Resource Management (CRM) course is required for a variety of Forest Service Aviation flightcrew and aircrew positions. Approved courses, instructor requirements, and refresher training are outlined in PMS 310-1 and the Forest Service Fire and Aviation Qualifications Guide.

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This listed training is not all-inclusive of training required for the positions listed.

Position	Required Training	Recommended Training
Agency Pilot (FW)	CRM ¹ IAT FW Flight Manager Special Use Personal Responsibility & Liability Human Factors in Aviation GCNP-SFRA ² IAT FS-SMS Introductory Course Fundamentals of ISBAO or Washington Office approved equivalency IAT A-110 – Aviation Transport of Hazardous Materials	IAT FS-SMS Intermediate/Advanced Course Washington Office-approved Upset Prevention and Recovery Training
Agency Pilot (RW)	CRM ¹ IAT RW Flight Manager Personal Responsibility & Liability Human Factors in Aviation GCNP-SFRA ² IAT FS-SMS Introductory Course Fundamentals of ISBAO or Washington Office approved equivalency IAT A-110 – Aviation Transport of Hazardous Materials	IAT FS-SMS Intermediate/Advanced Course
Agency Remote Pilot (UAS)	CRM ¹ IAT DOI Remote Pilot (UAS) IAT FS-SMS Introductory Course	Personal Responsibility & Liability Human Factors in Aviation
Exclusive Use Helicopter or Fixed-Wing Manager	CRM ¹ Human Factors in Aviation COR II Certification ³ IAT FS-SMS Introductory Course IAT A-110 – Aviation Transport of Hazardous Materials	COR III Certification ³

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Position	Required Training	Recommended Training
Air Tactical TGS	CRM ¹ Human Factors in Aviation COR II Certification ³ IAT FS-SMS Introductory Course	GCNP-SFRA COR III Certification ³ Pinch Hitter ⁴
Spotter (smokejumper, rappel, and short-haul)	CRM ¹ Human Factors in Aviation IAT FS-SMS Introductory Course IAT A-110 – Aviation Transport of Hazardous Materials	
Water Scooper Manager	CRM ¹ Human Factors in Aviation COR II Certification ³ IAT FS-SMS Introductory Course Waterscooper Manager Workshop (every 3 years)	COR III Certification ³
Loadmaster	CRM ¹ IAT F/W Flight Manager Special Use Agency Loadmaster Training IAT FS-SMS Introductory Course IAT A-110 – Aviation Transport of Hazardous Materials	Commercial Loadmaster/Flight Attendant Training
Ramp Manager – Large Transport Aircraft	IAT A-110 – Aviation Transport of Hazardous Materials	
Aircraft/aviation Dispatcher	CRM ¹ IAT Aircraft/aviation Dispatcher Curriculum Human Factors in Aviation IAT FS-SMS Introductory Course	FAA Aircraft/aviation Dispatching Course

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Position	Required Training	Recommended Training
Airtanker Base Manager	CRM ¹ Human Factors in Aviation IAT FS-SMS Introductory Course	
Zone/Forest/Unit Aviation Officer	CRM ¹ Human Factors in Aviation IAT FS-SMS Introductory Course	

¹ CRM training listed as “CRM” in this table is comprised of N9059 – CRM 7 Skills (required) and RT9059F – CRM 7 Skills Refresher (every 3 years)

² Grand Canyon National Park – Special Flight Rules Area

³ For exclusive use positions. Only one is required per exclusive use contract.

⁴ TBD what is approved training for this requirement.