22 NOVEMBER 2021

ICAO FLYING FOREST FIRE FIGHTING DIALOGUE

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International Fire Aviation Working Group

The International Fire Aviation Working Group **(IFAWG)**
and the
Fire Aviation Guidelines

- Overall context

- Background and operation of IFAWG

- Purpose and status of the Fire Aviation Guidelines

Overall context - aerial firefighting (i)

- Highly versatile
- Increasing demand for use of aerial resources
- Increasing use of aerial resources
- Increased value from aerial resources
- High profile
- High cost
- Varied governance and supply arrangements
- Complex safety and risk management

Overall context - aerial firefighting (ii)

- Good opportunities for resource sharing…..:
  - "mainstream" sharing, or
  - for surge/emergency purposes
- Aircraft are often the first or only resources shared between jurisdictions in a developing fire emergency
- Many examples of effective sharing of aviation resources (through robust, pre-planned arrangements)

International Fire Aviation Working Group (IFAWG)

IFAWG History and Background (i)

Through a series of International Wildland Fire Conferences the wildland fire community identified the need to:

- Ensure that aerial operations are managed, supervised and supported to a high standard, and are properly integrated

- Facilitate sharing of aerial resources

- Standardize approaches for integrated management of aerial means

- Implement formal networks for continued sharing of information and resources, with a priority on safety.

IFAWG
History and
Background (ii)

In 2010, The IFAWG Mission and Terms of Reference were endorsed by the UNISDR Wildland Fire Advisory Group:

- Mission: *Identify and facilitate opportunities for multilateral communication and cooperation to improve the safety, efficiency and effectiveness of aerial fire management.*

- Operates as an advisory group to UNISDR Global Wildland Fire Network

- Includes representatives of jurisdictions that routinely utilise aerial resources for management of landscape fires

www.ifawg.net
gfmc.online

UNISDR IFAWG
International Fire Aviation
Working Group

**IFAWG
History and
Background** (ii)

Work Plan and Projects:

UNISDR IFAWG
International Fire Aviation
Working Group

- Maintain networks to facilitate sharing of resources

- Share standards and best practices

- Share lessons learned

- Create standard reporting criteria for accidents and incidents

- Develop data collection standards

- Contribute to studies on resourcing and sharing models

- **Develop voluntary guidelines**

The Fire Aviation Guidelines

A core group of IFAWG has been working on developing voluntary guidelines

Through agreed **core principles, strategies and best-practices t**he guidelines aim primarily to:

- Assist adopting states to develop and manage **appropriate, effective, high-quality aviation capabilities**

- Enhance the **opportunities for transboundary cooperation** through the sharing of aviation capabilities between states or jurisdictions by:

  – Developing common standards and common operating practices for fire aviation that will enhance inter-operability and operational safety; and

  – Providing recommended procedures and supporting information for effective sharing of fire aviation resources.
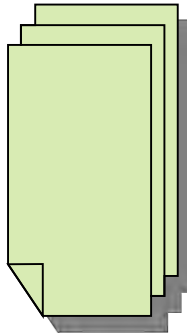
The Fire Aviation Guidelines (ii)

Structure:
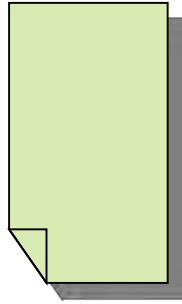
Part 1: Framework
- Background, context
- Core Principles
- Basic Strategies
- Supporting information (e.g. definitions)

Part 2: Detailed guidance
the *"International Manual of Common Rules for Fire Aviation"* (IMCR)
- Key guidelines
- Detailed "Practice Guides" (for specific activities or situations)

The Fire Aviation Guidelines (iii)

Core principles

1. Safety	Safety is a core principle of aerial fire management operations that must not be compromised.
2. Environmental sustainability	Aircraft use in fire management should be environmentally responsible and sustainable as far as practicable.
3. Efficiency and effectiveness	Aircraft use in fire management should always strive to be as efficient and effective as is practicable. This requires comprehensive management and operational planning of a high standard.

The Fire Aviation Guidelines (iv)

Core principles

4. Knowledge-based continuous improvement	The use of aircraft for fire management must be underpinned by knowledge and should strive for continuous improvement.
5. Good governance	Safe, efficient and effective aircraft operations must be supported by documented policies, procedures, standards and operating practices that are based on the best available knowledge and are regularly reviewed and updated.
6. Legality	Aerial fire management operations must comply with the relevant laws and regulations of the state pertaining to the use of aircraft.

The Fire Aviation Guidelines (v)

- Voluntary
- Developed to be complementary to aviation legislation and regulation. The relevant laws always take precedence
- Jurisdictions and aircraft operators may incorporate material from the guidelines into their own internal doctrine as appropriate

  ….but the Guidelines can stand-alone and be self-contained if necessary
- Bi-lateral and multi-lateral resource sharing agreements should refer to the guidelines where appropriate
- Developed in collaboration with the International Wildfire Preparedness Mechanism (UNISDR-IWPM)
- Designed to be consistent with other UN doctrine
- **Still a work-in-progress**

THANK YOU