



National Wildfire Coordinating Group
National Interagency Aviation Committee

NIAC-19-02

Date: 15 February 2019
To: DOI NIAC National Aviation Managers
USFS Branch Chief, Aviation Operations
From: Joel Kerley, Chair, National Interagency Aviation Committee
Subject: Interim Approval of UAS Aerial Ignition Payload

Purpose: The purpose of this memo is to provide the Interagency Fire UAS Subcommittee (IFUASS) with the authority to develop a UAS aerial ignition payload.

Background: A UAS aerial ignition payload was developed in the private sector by Drone Amplified and tested by OAS (on wildland fires) during the 2018 fire season with favorable results. 135 missions were conducted on five separate fires. The interagency aerial ignition/UAS community wishes to collaborate in an effort to exploit this technology in an effort to supplement conventional aerial ignition systems and techniques. The system consists of a UAS (DJI M600), plastic sphere dispenser (PSD) payload (Drone Amplified Ignis) and thermal imaging camera (ZENMUSE XT2).

Interim Approval: Credentialed (OAS carded) interagency personnel are authorized to utilize the DJI M-600 equipped with the Ignis PSD system for training, fuels management and wildfire management for the duration of calendar year 2019.

The utility of this system will be evaluated during the 2019 field season. The IFUASS will recommend a course of instruction, position descriptions(s), risk assessment, and operational procedures for NIAC approval at the conclusion of the 2019 field/fire season.

The IFUASS is responsible for recommending future aerial ignition payloads to NIAC.

Operational Constraints: UAS personnel operating these systems will be trained, evaluated and credentialed (carded) by qualified OAS personnel.

Wildland fire operations will be conducted in accordance with the Interagency UAS Operations Guide (PMS 515) and approved firing plans.

Fuels management and training operations will be conducted under approved prescribed fire burn plans and Project Aviation Safety Plans (PASP).

Contact Information:

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