**Northern Rockies Coordinating Group**

**Federal, State, and Local Government Agencies Working Together In Emergency Response Management**

August 18, 2017

To: Ryan Stailey, Aviation Safety and Technical Assistance Team Leader

From: Mark Jones, Northern Rockies MAC Coordinator

RE: Aviation Safety and Technical Assistance Team (ASTAT)

The Northern Rockies Geographic Area (NR) is currently at Preparedness Level 5 with an Area Command and multiple Type 1/2/3/4/5 incident management teams/organizations mobilized. Fire danger indices are hitting all-time record highs, fire behavior has been extreme, resources have been operating at a very high level for an extended duration, and fire activity continues to increase in the Northern Rockies Geographic Area and nationally. The NR MAC group is emphatic that focus on risk management and safety for all wildfire preparedness and response be emphasized and maintained.

You and your team have been requested to provide assistance to the NR MAC and the aviation personnel now operating within the Northern Rockies.

Due to this extraordinary fire situation in the Northern Rockies, you are hereby delegated to follow the objectives listed below, effective August 18, 2017:

* Enhance safety, efficiency, and effectiveness of aviation operations within the NR Geographical boundaries.
* Provide safety and technical assistance to unit and aviation managers, flight crews, dispatch, and unit/incident management teams for increasing, ongoing or declining incident aviation activity.
* Order the cessation of any operation that is in your opinion unsafe and take the necessary steps to assure safe conduct before the operation is allowed to resume.

The following protocols should be followed while on your assignment:

1. You will report to and receive assignments from the ASTAT Coordinator.
2. Prior to visiting an incident helibase or fixed-wing base, provide an entrance briefing to the Unit/Forest Aviation Officer (UAO or FAO) to:
	* Identify local aviation management issues.
	* Discuss and clarify the role of the ASTAT and the Unit/ASTAT's needs and expectations.
3. Prior to arrival at incident air bases, contact the IMT (IC and/or AOBD) with the same points as in #2 above.
4. Conduct an exit briefing to UAO/FAO, or the IMT (IC and/or AOBD) before leaving the local/incident area.
5. ASTAT Team Leader will provide feedback to the affected Regional/State aviation managers and Area Commands.
6. ASTAT Team Leader will provide daily feedback to the ASTAT Coordinator at a mutually agreed time.
7. ASTAT Team will conduct an exit briefing to the NR MAC.

Whenever any major safety concerns are discovered, notify ASTAT Coordinator as soon as practical. The team is expected to provide a final written report. The report should identify program accommodations and recommendations for improvement or other notable conditions that warrant attention.

The ASTAT will consist of the following positions:

Team Leader: Ryan Staley, Aviation Operations, OAS

Team Members: David Serena, Maintenance Inspector, USFS

Mike Amicarella, Helicopter Inspector Pilot, BIA

David Underwood, Operations, BIA,

David Lee, Dispatch, BLM

ASTAT Coordinator: David Crumb, Helicopter Operations Specialist, USFS

We appreciate your assistance during this time of heightened fire activity. If you have any specific needs or encounter any difficulties along the way, do not hesitate to call us at any time.

Mark L. Jones, 'NRMAC Coordinator Date:

Ryan Staley, ASTAT Lead Date:

Mike De Grosky, NRCG Vice Chair Date:

David Crumb, ASTAT Coordinator Date: