



Interagency Helicopter Operations Subcommittee

Standard Operating Procedures

1 Identification

The Interagency Helicopter Operations Subcommittee (IHOpS) is an active interagency, NWCG subcommittee, known herein as the Subcommittee.

2 Strategic Intent

2.1 Vision:

Helicopter operations involving NWCG and its partner agencies are standardized and safe.

2.2 Purpose:

The Interagency Helicopter Operations Subcommittee (IHOPS) provides national leadership in interagency helicopter operations. The IHOPS supports interagency efforts in helicopter safety, efficiency, standards development and implementation, procedures, programs and coordination. The IHOPS also provides interagency guidance for law enforcement, search and rescue, the resource management aviation for the US Forest Service (USFS) and Department of Interior (DOI).

2.3 Objectives:

- ☞ Promote safe, cost-efficient and effective aviation services in support of agency and interagency goals and objectives.
- ☞ Define and standardize national interagency helicopter management and operational procedures for helicopter users from participating agencies.
- ☞ Through standardization, facilitate the ability of personnel from different agencies to work cooperatively on incidents and projects.
- ☞ Provide a framework within which areas, regions, states, and local units can provide supplemental site-specific guidance.

3 Organization Structure & Relationships

The Subcommittee is positioned within NIAC for overall stewardship of helicopter operations. The Subcommittee manages several Units chartered to attend to specific business areas of helicopter operations.

3.1 Relationships:

The Subcommittee is a subgroup of the National Interagency Aviation Committee

3.2 Memberships:

NWCG committees and subgroups are established and organized to accomplish the overall NWCG mission. They provide leadership to and represent the major functional areas of wildland fire management.

The term of the Subcommittee Chair appointment will be 2 years and may be extended at the discretion of the Interagency Helicopter Operations Subcommittee. The term of the Vice Chair appointment will be 2 years and may be extended at the discretion of the Interagency Helicopter Operations Subcommittee.

Agency rotation for chair and the vice chair, should follow directly after the chair position in this list, at the discretion of the Subcommittee:

- ④ State (current, 2020-2022)
- ④ Bureau of Indian Affairs
- ④ U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services
- ④ Bureau of Land Management
- ④ U.S. Forest Service
- ④ National Park Service

The terms of each primary member will be indefinite. Technical advisors may be added as associate members with Subcommittee Chair approval.

3.3 General:

Subcommittee membership is composed of representation for both agency leadership and business area expertise. Subcommittee members represent agencies as their National Helicopter Operation Specialist. One member represents the National Association of State



Foresters. Three members represent the business areas of National Helicopter Inspector Pilot, National Aviation Training, and Aviation Safety.

3.4 Attendance:

Primary members should attend all meetings. Those unable to attend should ensure that their organization (or business area) is represented with an alternate participant who is fully briefed and has decision-making authority on behalf of the absentee member.

Non-members may be invited to participate when their expertise is needed.

Contractors and non-government organization representatives may not serve as alternate representatives of government agencies.

3.5 Quorum:

A minimum of two-thirds of the NWCG primary members constitutes a quorum. A quorum is required to make decisions and/or direct actions.

3.6 Primary (Voting) Members:

One Helicopter Operations Specialist from these agencies:

- ☞ U.S. Forest Service
- ☞ Bureau of Land Management
- ☞ Bureau of Indian Affairs
- ☞ National Park Service
- ☞ US Fish and Wildlife Service
- ☞ Office of Aviation Services
- ☞ National Assoc. of State Forester

3.7 Associate Members:

At the discretion of the Chair, technical advisors may be added as associate members. For example:

- ☞ Helicopter Inspector Pilot
- ☞ Aviation Training Specialist

- ☞ Aviation Safety Specialist

4 Services

The Subcommittee may provide the following products and services, but is not only limited to the following:

- ☞ Provide or approve Subject Matter Experts as requested by other entities
- ☞ Review helicopter-related NWCG and Interagency Aviation Training courses
- ☞ Review and approve Unit publications and guides
- ☞ Assists, as requested in reviewing and updating helicopter-related support kits and equipment
- ☞ Review and approve helicopter-related equipment
- ☞ Make recommendations, through NIAC to NWCG
- ☞ Chair and/or members act as liaison or advisory members of other NWCG committees, subcommittees and units
- ☞ Review and /or draft aviation safety/technical/lessons learned bulletins (or similar)