

Leadplane Training Lesson Plan

Initial Position (IP)

12-04-N9065-HO

Objective:

To develop the student's proficiency with IP's (Phase 2).

Content:

The IP is a location that tankers initially fly to when coming to the fire. It can be identified by a latitude and longitude, a geographic location, or even a distance and direction from the fire. On smaller fires the tanker will come directly to the fire, which will be the IP.

If it is difficult to join up because of visibility, fly out in the clear and determine a latitude and longitude that is clear of hazards. Give the IP latitude and longitude, to the incoming tankers or call it in to the tanker base or dispatch. Have the tanker hold at the IP and come out to join up with one tanker at a time before leading them into the drop area.

IP's can also be used to help separate incoming and departing aircraft from the area of operations.

If several aircraft end up holding over the IP, the IP technically becomes a holding point. Use caution for having several pilots over the point maintaining separation for themselves. This can cause extra radio traffic. Dissimilar aircraft will have dissimilar pattern sizes and can also cause issues for the pilots holding over the point.

Completion Standards:

The lesson is complete when the student can demonstrate proper use of an IP in a fire environment without the reliance on the evaluator.