



Fire Management Board

FMB Memorandum No. 16-002

Date: 30 March 2016

TO: Fire Executive Council

FROM: Larry Sutton, Chair, Fire Management Board

SUBJECT: Use of AFUE Modules for Aviation Data Collection on Wildland Fires

The purpose of this memorandum is to 1) provide the interagency wildland fire community with updated information about the USFS Aerial Firefighting Use and Effectiveness (AFUE) study, and 2) request fire managers to allow AFUE modules to deploy on active incidents regardless of jurisdiction.

Please distribute this to the appropriate individuals in your agencies. In particular, please ensure that this reaches all Incident Commanders, Incident Management Teams, and Fire Management Officers.

The AFUE study was initiated by the US Forest Service in 2012 and is now supporting the National Wildfire Coordinating Group's National Interagency Aviation Committee (NIAC) by conducting fire aviation data collection and analysis to meet the expectations of the Government Accountability Office (GAO) Report 13-684, including the development of the next generation Interagency Aviation Strategy for Wildland Fire.

The collaboration between NIAC and AFUE addresses the following at the request of FMB:

- 1) GAO Recommendation 1: Performance and Effectiveness of Firefighting Aircraft.
- 2) Tasking elements 1 through 4 of NWCG Tasking Memorandum 15-001.

Background information found here: <http://www.nwcg.gov/interagency-aviation-strategy-information>.

AFUE employs four modules. Each module is comprised of three highly experienced firefighters who are single-resource qualified and share a mix of hotshot, smokejumper, engine, helitack, and wildfire module backgrounds. Modules are duty stationed in geographic areas with high aviation use, but are dispatched through the AFUE coordinator to other locations based on fire activity nationwide. Module crewmembers rotate staffing for a single aerial observation aircraft dedicated to AFUE.

AFUE modules are self-sufficient, but operate in coordination with the IMT; management directed; funded through USFS national incident support operations outside of incident suppression funds; deployed outside of ROSS. See AFUE attachment for more details.

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Attachments:

AFUE – Aerial Firefighting Use and Effectiveness Program

cc: John Glenn, Chair, NWCG; Dan Buckley, Chair, NMAC; Jon Rollens, Chair, NIAC; FMB Members