



NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP

National Interagency Fire Center
3833 S. Development Avenue
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MEMORANDUM

Reference: NWCG#006-2010

To: Interagency Helicopter Operations Subcommittee

Through: National Interagency Aviation Committee

From: NWCG Chair *William Raage*

Date: February 18, 2010

Subject: Standardization of Forest Service Rappel Programs

Thank you for your recent issue paper outlining the concerns from the Interagency Helicopter Rappel Working Group (IHRWG) that NWCG received from the National Interagency Aviation Committee (NIAC). Your concerns and the concerns of the IHRWG are important to the NWCG Executive Board.

The current national standardization process for rappelling referred to in this issue paper is a Forest Service effort following the rappel fatality that occurred in July 2009. While the standardization process is not an NWCG effort, NWCG fully endorses the Forest Service effort.

The NWCG Executive Board encourages interagency participation as the Forest Service standardizes its program such that, when completed, the standards could be fully implementable among all NWCG agencies that utilize rappelling as a suppression tool.

cc: NWCG Executive Board