



NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP

Memorandum No. 16-006

Date: 14 April 2016

TO: NWCG Executive Board Members

FROM: John Glenn, Chair, NWCG Executive Board

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Glenn".

SUBJECT: Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Incursion Protocol for Wildland Firefighters

The purpose of this memorandum is to establish an NWCG standard for mitigating the threat of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) over wildland fire incidents. The *UAS Incursion Protocol for Wildland Firefighters* provides uniform guidance in this area. The protocol is attached to this memo and can be accessed on the UAS Subcommittee homepage at <http://www.nwcg.gov/committees/interagency-fire-unmanned-aircraft-systems-subcommittee/resources>. It will ultimately reside in the forthcoming *NWCG UAS Operations Guide*, scheduled for release in spring 2017. Please distribute this memorandum through your agency channels.

The use of unmanned aircraft systems, also known as drones, has increased dramatically across the United States over the last few years. The simplicity of operating these systems combined with the high quality imagery they can provide has led to some operators flying them in close proximity to incidents. The attached protocol is intended to be a decision support tool for incident personnel when a UAS is spotted in the vicinity of an incident. All UAS incursions on incidents should be reported via the SAFECOM system (<https://www.safecom.gov>).

The *UAS Incursion Protocol for Wildland Firefighters* was developed by the Interagency Fire Unmanned Aircraft Systems Subcommittee (UASSC) under the National Interagency Aviation Committee. If you have any questions regarding this document or feedback on suggested improvements to the protocol, please contact Brad Koeckeritz at (208) 433-5091 or Bradley.Koeckeritz@ios.doi.gov.

Attachment 1: NWCG UAS Incursion Protocol

cc: Brad Koeckeritz, Chair, UASSC; Jon Rollens, Chair, NIAC; NWCG Committee Chairs; NWCG Executive Secretary