



Regional Wildland Fire Networks:
North America – Mesoamerica – South America – Caribbean – Mediterranean – Southeast Europe / Caucasus – Euro-Alpine – Near East – Subsahara Africa – South Asia – Southeast Asia – Australasia – Northeast Asia – Central Asia – Eurasia



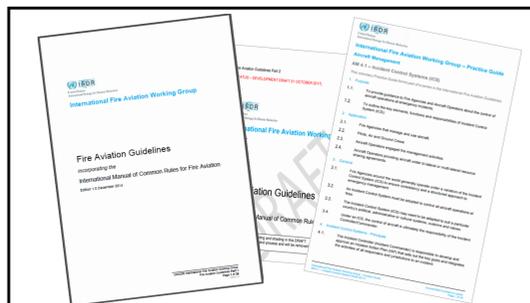
International Fire Aviation Working Group International Fire Aviation Guidelines



The International Fire Aviation Working Group (IFAWG) aims to ensure that aviation provides effective support for wildland fire management by improving the safety and effectiveness of aerial means through sharing of information, experience and resources.

IFAWG is an international group of aerial fire management specialists, comprising representatives from states around the world who regularly utilize aerial means in managing fire.

A major project of IFAWG is the development of the *International Fire Aviation Guidelines*



The International Fire Aviation Guidelines aim to ensure that aviation provides effective support for wildland fire management



Aviation is becoming an increasingly important tool for wildland fire managers



Aviation capability is constantly improving, but requires close attention to management, support and safety



It is important for aircraft to be integrated with ground operations



Night operations are becoming more regular but require additional risk management



Drones are likely to be used more, including for planned burning, but still require careful management and integration

The International Fire Aviation Guidelines

The voluntary International Fire Aviation Guidelines are being developed collaboratively and aim to establish agreed core principles, strategies and best-practices to:

- Assist states to develop and manage appropriate high-quality aviation capabilities that will provide effective, and integrated support to organizations or agencies with fire management responsibilities;
- Ensure that support provided by aerial operations to fire management is safe and effective, and as efficient as is practicable;
- Enhance and support opportunities for transboundary cooperation through the sharing of aviation capabilities between states or jurisdictions by:
 - (a) developing common standards and common operating practices for fire aviation that will enhance inter-operability; and
 - (b) providing recommended procedures and supporting information for effective sharing of fire aviation resources.
- Provide achievable benchmarks for jurisdictions with well established aerial firefighting programs; and
- Provide guidance to jurisdictions striving to establish aerial firefighting capabilities.

Structure

The Guidelines are comprised of two main parts:

Part 1. The "Framework Document"
The Framework provides background, contextual and supporting information, and sets out Core Principles that underpin the guidelines.

Following on from the Core Principles are a number of Basic Strategies for consideration by jurisdictions which are developing or maintaining a fire aviation capability.

Part 2. The "International Manual of Common Rules for Fire Aviation" (IMCR).
The IMCR provides guidelines and further detail to support implementation of the principles and strategies outlined the *Framework Document*. The IMCR also provides some recommended procedures for international deployments of aerial firefighting resources.

The IMCR incorporates "Practice Guides" which provide more detailed technical and operational information and recommendations regarding specific activities or situations.

The IMCR is intended to be a living document, designed for continual addition and updating as procedures and best-practices are developed, improved and refined.

Using the Guidelines

Use of the guidelines is voluntary. Some of the ways in which they could be helpful are:

- As a checklist or reference for a jurisdiction that already has well developed aviation procedures and doctrine.
- For adoption by a jurisdiction that is developing an aviation capability.
- To provide standards and operating procedures for aircraft that move between jurisdictions as part of transboundary resource sharing arrangements.
- Incorporation in, or referenced by, bi-lateral or multi-lateral transboundary resource sharing agreements and operating plans.

Core Principles

The Core Principles underpinning the International Fire Aviation Guidelines are:

- 1. Safety**
Safety is a principle of aerial fire management operations that must not be compromised. The preservation of human life is always the highest priority.
- 2. Environmental sustainability**
Aircraft use in fire management should be environmentally responsible and sustainable as far as practicable.
- 3. Efficiency and effectiveness**
Aircraft use in fire management should always strive to be as efficient and effective as is practicable. This requires comprehensive management and operational planning of a high standard.
- 4. Knowledge-based continuous improvement**
The use of aircraft for fire management must be underpinned by knowledge and should strive for continuous improvement.
- 5. Good governance**
Safe, efficient and effective aircraft operations must be supported by documented policies, procedures, standards and operating practices that are based on the best available knowledge and are regularly reviewed and updated.
- 6. Legality**
Aerial fire management operations must comply with relevant laws and regulations.

The Guidelines need your Help!

Production of the International Fire Aviation Guidelines is a work-in-progress and relies on voluntary contributions. Can your organisation supply existing best-practice procedures and standards that could be used as a basis for development of detailed Practice Guides? Maybe you or your colleagues could spend some time editing, writing or translating? See the links below.

The IFAWG operates as a Working Group of the Wildland Fire Advisory Group (WFLAG), which is serving as a liaison between the Global Wildland Fire Network (GWFN) and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) through its Secretariat, the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). Through the International Wildfire Preparedness Mechanism (IWPM) IFAWG is a Voluntary Commitment to the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

IFAWG Website: <http://www.ifawg.org> IFAWG Secretariat: GFMC <http://gfmc.online/> / <http://gfmc.online/intro/about3.html>

Fire Aviation Guidelines: <http://www.ifawg.org/information/>