

Appendix N – Rappel Activities in Support of Extended Attack or Large Fire Operations

Integration of rappel activities into the often complex airspace associated with extended attack and large fire operations necessitates additional risk and operational planning and logistical support in order to assure the safety of personnel. While working on extended attack and large fire incidents where rappel operations are planned or a possibility of rappelling exists the following conditions shall be met:

- Planned rappel operations (operational and proficiency) shall be identified in the Incident Action Plan in the ICS-220 and the ICS-204 for the division where the rappel operation is planned to occur.
- Preplanning for emergent situations in which rappel operations might be utilized (Medivac, IA within the incident response zone, Crash Rescue, etc.) will be completed, documented with review by the highest level aviation position assigned and approved by the Operations Section Chief (OSC) or IC and briefed to all involved.
- An operational risk assessment will be completed as appropriate by the manager and briefed to all involved prior to each operation. (Each operation may include multiple loads of rappellers.)
- Planning for proficiency rappels shall include incident aviation management staff and the OSC. Consider conducting proficiency rappels away from the helibase in order to prevent distractions to the helibase operations and rappel modules.