

# National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group

3833 South Development Avenue; Boise, ID 83705

NMAC Correspondence 2017-13

June 22, 2017

To: Geographic Area Coordination Group Chairs

From: National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group

Subject: Aviation Safety Stand Down June 23, 2017

On Friday, June 23, 2017 the National Multi-Agency Coordination Group (NMAC) requests that each airtanker/air-attack base, helibase or other areas where tactical aircraft congregate, stand down for 15 minutes prior to initiating any operations. During this time please facilitate a discussion with all tactical aircraft personnel focused on flight operations in congested airspace. Attached are some alerts and bulletins to utilize for this discussion.

A recent series of near mid-air collisions has raised concern over airspace conflicts within Fire Traffic Areas (FTA) and airspace associated with towered and non-towered airports. Flight in congested airspace, whether associated with fire operations or airport procedures, necessitates elevated attention with mitigations for distractions, interruptions and preoccupations.

Maintaining effective situational awareness is essential at all times; if this is compromised, disengage from the operation. Assigned frequencies, altimeter settings, altitudes, virtual fences and tactical assignments cannot be left to assumption and must be understood. Do not hesitate to ask questions and/or request clarification from assigned aerial supervision or fellow pilots.

At a minimum please discuss the following topics:

- Fire Traffic Area (FTA) operations,
- Transitions to/from towered and non-towered airport operations and,
- Barriers to effective communications/Crew Resource Management (CRM).

Attachments

[IALL 17-04 on Near Mid-Air Collision](#)

[IASA 12-04 on Aerial Supervision](#)

[IAAPB 11-03 on Mid-Air Collision Avoidance](#)

[IALL 08-03 on Near Mid-Air during Fire Suppression Operations](#)

/s/ Dan Buckley  
Chair, NMAC

