



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Office of Fire & Aviation
Operations Alert



No. 09-02

Date: August 27, 2009

Subject: "SEAT Flight Safety Day & Mandatory Pilot Briefing."

Area of Concern: Single Engine Air Tanker Operations.

Discussion: BLM is conducting a "SEAT Flight Safety Day" on Friday 8/28/2009. Other Federal and State SEAT users are encouraged to participate. On this day, no BLM SEAT flight operations will be authorized. However, aircraft Daily Availability will continue to be paid. A briefing that includes the following elements is mandatory.

Flight safety has priority over operational effectiveness and mission accomplishment. Pilots may decline any mission that they feel may endanger themselves, other aircraft or ground personnel.

Required review topics for all SEAT Pilots:

- Review the Aircraft Flight Manual and Pilot's Operating Handbook sections concerning critical safe flight parameters, including the manufacturer's recommended drop speed.
- Review the aircraft and company checklists to include Pre-Takeoff, Drop Sequence, Landing, etc.
- Review the Pilot Read Files <http://www.wildfirelessons.net/Additional.aspx?Page=184#readfiles>

Required review topics for SEAT Pilots and Agency Aviation Personnel:

- Review System Safety Risk Assessments for SEAT Operations.
<http://www.wildfirelessons.net/documents/5-SMSSEATAssess.xls>
- Discussion of the SEAT "Minimum SEAT Descent Altitude" of 60' above vegetation (this is a contract requirement and can be found at "B20 Flight Operations" in the contract).
<http://amd.nbc.gov/apmd/cwn/cwnVTseat.htm>
- Discussion of the "Optimum Drop Height" for their particular aircraft, 80-90' above vegetative cover for most gate systems.
- Review and discussion of the "ASHE" acronym and its' application to SEAT flight safety.
<http://www.wildfirelessons.net/documents/ASHEreview2008.doc>
- Review "How to Properly Refuse Risk" for safety or other reasons.
http://www.wildfirelessons.net/documents/turndown_aviation_09.doc

Aviation managers and aircraft managers are encouraged to include other aerial and ground firefighters in briefings, discussions and review of materials. Additional aviation related briefing topics can be found on the Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center website located at: <http://www.wildfirelessons.net/Additional.aspx?Page=177>

Aerial supervisors and ground personnel are reminded to be vigilant in monitoring safe flight parameters during all phases of the aerial retardant delivery mission. **Unsafe flight operations must not be tolerated.**

Mark Bickham
SEAT Program Manager
(208) 387-5872



Joe Bates
BLM Aviation Safety
(208) 387-5879