

**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AND CONSUMER SERVICES**

**DIVISION OF FORESTRY**

**FLORIDA WILDFIRE AIR OPERATIONS PLAN**

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Effective February 18, 2009

## **1. PURPOSE**

This document is written to provide information and operational requirements pursuant to Florida Statute 590.02 (h), which states all state, regional, and local government agencies operating aircraft in the vicinity of an ongoing wildfire must operate in compliance with the applicable State Wildfire Aviation Plan.

The Division of Forestry is charged with the State wide responsibilities of suppressing wildfire. To accomplish this objective suppression aircraft, both fixed and rotor wing, are owned, leased, contracted and dispatched by the Division. Safety of fire suppression aircraft and ground resources is the number one priority in operating over and on a wildfire. This is only accomplished by all participating suppression and other emergency agencies that operate aircraft following appropriate operating protocols.

## **2. TACTICAL OPERATIONS:**

On any given wildfire the Division of Forestry may have one or a combination of fixed winged and rotor winged aircraft. In order to maintain the level of safety required to perform the arduous and complex task of wildfire suppression it must be understood that all aircraft not coordinated by the Division of Forestry should remain away from the wildfire. Aircraft wishing to enter the airspace over a wildfire should contact the Division of Forestry for a status of aircraft on the wildfire and radio frequencies that must be used to contact suppression aircraft or ground resources at least 5 nautical miles from the wildfire.

On wildfires that the Division has not been called upon to take the initial suppression action, the initial attack agency may dispatch suppression aircraft controlled by them. The suppression agency must notify the Division that they have aircraft on the wildfire. This is necessary because the Division routinely flies smoke patrol and would have cause to fly any wildfire in any county. All aircraft will be coordinated by the Division of Forestry's Incident Commander and or the Unified Incident Commanders. This would include unmanned aerial vehicles.

The requirements of non-Division of Forestry aircraft to participate in wildland fire suppression are that they must have positive radio contact with DOF aircraft and DOF ground resources on pre-planned and approved radio frequencies and must follow the tactical and logistical direction of the Incident Commander (s), their designee, or DOF aircraft pilot. It should be understood that the Division may request an aircraft to vacate the scene of a wildland fire if deemed non-essential to the suppression efforts by the Division.

Non-suppression aircraft; reconnaissance, and non-essential aircraft must request approval from the Division of Forestry Incident Commander, Unified Incident Commanders or the Division of Forestry aircraft on the scene to enter the vicinity, ( 5 nautical miles from the center of the wildfire), of a wildfire being suppressed by the Division. This may be accomplished by contacting the Division Dispatch Center, Incident Commander, or DOF aircraft. News Media ships are requested to contact the Division on Air to Air or Air to Ground radio frequencies for coordination.

### **3. PRIORITIES**

Division of Forestry suppression aircraft are considered State-wide resources. Close coordination with Division Dispatch Centers, Aircraft Operations Section, and the State Officer in Charge must be maintained to meet the following Dispatch Priorities:

1. Public and Firefighter Safety
2. Protection of Property, and High Value Natural Resources
3. Initial Attack
4. Emerging Potential Problem Wildfires
5. Large Wildfire Incident Support

### **4. AIRSPACE COORDINATION**

Any Temporary Flight Restrictions or Notices to Airmen initiated by Division of Forestry will be managed by the Division. If another agency initiates the Temporary Flight Restriction or Notice to Airmen, the agency managing the TFR must notify the Division of Forestry Dispatch Center that they have requested a Temporary Flight Restriction or have requested a Notice to Airmen be issued concerning the wildfire. Management of that TFR will be the responsibility of the initiating agency in coordination with the Division of Forestry. Division of Forestry Dispatch Centers is requested to notify the Division's Air Tactical Coordinator at 850-228-7765 when a Temporary Flight Restriction or Notice to Airmen has been requested.

**5. CONTACT DIRECTORY:**

State Officer in Charge		850-488-6111
	Cell	850-566-2612
	Pager	877-353-7374
		Pin# 1638

Brian McKee		850-488-1728
Aviation Manager	Cell	850-228-7764

Robert Duty		352-793-5871
Air Tactical Coordinator	Cell	850-228-7765

Dispatch Centers:

Blackwater		850-957-6145
Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa Counties		

Chipola		850-547-7083
Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Walton, Washington Counties		

Tallahassee		850-488-1871
Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Wakulla Counties		

Perry		850-838-2299
Dixie, Lafayette, Madison, Taylor Counties		

Suwannee		386-758-5700
Baker, Bradford, Columbia, Hamilton, Suwannee, Union Counties		

Jacksonville		904-266-5001
Clay, Duval, Nassau Counties		

Waccasassa Alachua, Gilchrist, Levy, Marion Putnam Counties	352-955-2005
Bunnell Flagler, St. Johns, Volusia Counties	386-446-6786
Withlacoochee Citrus, Hernando, Lake, Pasco, Sumter Counties	352-754-6757
Orlando Brevard, Orange, Osceola, Seminole Counties	407-856-6512
Lakeland Hillsborough, Pinellas, Polk Counties	863-648-3160
Myakka Charlotte, Desoto, Hardee, Manatee, Sarasota Counties	941-751-7627
Okeechobee Glades, Highlands, Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, St. Lucie Counties	863-462-5160
Caloosahatchee Collier, Hendry, Lee Counties	239-690-3500
Everglades Broward, Dade, Monroe, Palm Beach Counties	954-475-4120

COMMUNICATIONS PLAN:

	<b>RX AND TX</b>
AIR TO AIR	122.925
AIR TO AIR (50 MILE RADIUS OF FT.MYERS)	118.775
AIR TO AIR (70 MILES RADIUS OF FLORIDA CITY)	135.800
DIVISION OF FORESTRY FLIGHT FOLLOWING	159.300
AIR TO GROUND	171.425
AIR TO GROUND	171.575
AIR TO GROUND	172.275
AIR TO GROUND	170.475
AIR GUARD	168.625
TACTICAL	151.235
TACTICAL	151.295
FIRE MUTUAL AID (RED)	154.265
FIRE MUTUAL AID (WHITE)	154.280
FIRE MUTUAL AIR (BLUE)	154.295

COOPERATING AGENCIES SHOULD CONTACT YOUR LOCAL DIVISION OF FORESTRY OFFICE AND PREPLAN WHAT FREQUENCIES WILL BE USED FOR WILDLAND FIRE SUPPRESSION IN THEIR AREA.