OAS-28A
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Interagency Aviation
Information Bulletin

Subject: Process for Prescribed Fire (RX) Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFRs) involving UAS or helicopter aerial ignition operations.

Area of Concern: Prescribed Fire TFRs

Distribution: Dispatch and Aviation Operations

Discussion: As we continue to address the wildland fire crisis, protect communities, and maintain resilient landscapes, prescribed burns are increasing in frequency, pace, and scale. With this increase, UAS and helicopter aerial ignition capabilities are being relied upon more often to meet these objectives. To improve aviation safety and operational efficiency in this environment, Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFR) can be requested if the RX fire unit meets established criteria found in PMS 520 and outlined below. TFRs must be kept to a minimum geographic area to ensure the impact to the public is minimized and optimally managed based on operational requirements. The duration of a TFR should not exceed 2 days for RX fire and 14 days for wildland fire TFRs. A new TFR Request form has been established PMS 520-2.

Please replace all previously used TFR Request forms with the updated NWCG standard.

Criteria for requesting an RX TFRs.

- RX aerial ignition operations must be within the dimensions of a Military Training Route (MTR), Military Operations Area (MOA), or other defined Special Use Airspace.

OR

- RX aerial ignition operations must be within 4NM of a published airport listed in the Airport/ Facility Directory, using the Airport Reference Point (ARP), not the airport airspace classification boundary.

OR

- RX aerial ignition operations within one-half nautical mile of VFR charted Energy Infrastructure.

OR

- RX aerial ignition operations requiring 3 or more aircraft to meet burn objectives.

Figure 1 TFR Request Form, PMS 520-2

Additionally, for RX TFRs, the dimensions, duration, frequency, Fire Traffic Area (FTA), and NOTAM content requirements are identified below.

Dimensions of a Prescribed Fire TFR

The suggested prescribed fire TFR can be either 1 Nautical Mile Radius (NMR), or a polygon that is in operational alignment with the burn unit boundaries. The TFR can extend 1,200' above the highest terrain or obstacle in the prescribed fire unit. TFR will be specified in mean sea level (MSL) altitude, not above ground level (AGL). Use NMR whenever possible. For additional information please refer to the NWCG Standards for Airspace Coordination, PMS 520.

Lateral Dimensions

- Lateral dimensions must be in operational alignment of the RX boundaries. Do not include a Helibase if the Helibase is not directly adjacent to the RX unit boundaries.

- Only include the UAS launch and recover zone (LRZ) when it is less than one-half nautical mile from the RX unit boundaries.

Vertical Dimensions

Altitude; Note TFRs are generally specified in Mean Sea Level (MSL) altitude, not Above Ground Level (AGL).

Defined as that airspace extending up to an elevation of 1,200' above the highest terrain or obstacle within the prescribed fire unit.

Duration

- Prescribed fire TFRs should only be for the duration of UAS or helicopter operations.

Frequency Requirements

- A/A frequency

FTA Requirements

All firefighting aircraft will follow the Fire Traffic Area (FTA) communications protocol within the TFR.

NOTAM Language for NOTAM Originator

- "TO PROVIDE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR PRESCRIBED FIRE FIGHTING UAS AERIAL IGNITION OPS" or "HELICOPTER AERIAL IGNITION OPS." and add "PRESCRIBED" to the name.

- Issue the NOTAM as 91.137(a)(2)

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