

MNICS TACTICAL AIRCRAFT REQUESTS REFERENCE

Helicopters and fixed wing aircraft (Air Tankers or Air Attack Platforms) are statewide resources and are normally located at Exclusive Use Helibases or one of four primary Airtanker Bases. When conditions warrant, some aircraft will be positioned at secondary or temporary bases.

| Dispatch Location | Aircraft | Telephone |
|----------------------|--|--|
| MNCC Aviation Desk | <u>ALL Tactical fire suppression aircraft</u> | 218-327-4582 |
| MN DNR Area Dispatch | <u>MN DNR helicopter assigned to same Area</u> | Call helibase or airtanker base direct |

When a request is received, the MNCC Aviation Desk will complete an electronic TARO (Tactical Aircraft Request Order) form and email it directly to the airtanker base and/or helibase. A follow-up phone call from the Aviation Desk to the airtanker base and/or helibase will ensure the request is received. The request or phone call with TARO information authorizes the dispatch.

The Aviation Desk will mobilize the closest available resources from any base or will re-direct or re-prioritize aircraft that are assigned to another incident. This includes the possibility of requesting resources from multiple bases for a single incident. Single Engine Scoopers and SEATs are dispatched in pairs, with an Air Attack, unless specified otherwise.

A DNR helicopter assigned to an Area may be requested directly by the Area to a fire within the Area boundaries. This request will utilize the TARO form, electronic or written AND be communicated via phone or radio. The TARO should be as complete as possible. This process includes the authorization to launch. A notification call to the MNCC Aviation Desk is required soon after the request and an electronic TARO should be emailed to: (mnmncc_aviation@firenet.gov).

The following aircraft requests are required to go to the MNCC Aviation Desk:

- DNR helicopters to a fire outside their assigned Area;
- Requests for helicopter and fixed wing resources to the same fire;
- DNR contracted helicopters in a cost share agreement with another agency;
- All requests for fixed wing resources including tankers and air attack;
- All federal aircraft requests.

The MNCC Aviation Desk will:

- Coordinate MNICS aircraft and set priorities based on Life, Property and Resources in consultation with agency aviation managers
- Formulate and initiate a response plan that will either
 - Redirect aircraft already committed
 - Mobilize aircraft located at other airtanker bases or helibases
- Direct Air Attack to the highest priority fire
- Give input to aviation managers concerning aviation duty day and ordering additional aircraft from other sources

Aircraft will normally be on duty according to established staffing plans based on Preparedness Level and Fire Danger unless conditions warrant that they should either remain on duty for “extended hours” or that they are placed in “call back” status. The MNCC Aviation Desk will ensure a plan is established for a timely dispatch of aircraft if they are recalled after being placed in “call back” status. An aviation planning conference call occurs at 1630 daily to determine the release time for aircraft for that day and the start time and aircraft locations for the next day. This information is sent to MNICS, Area, Region and interagency partners by 1700 daily.