



Pacific Southwest Region Aviation Information Bulletin



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Subject: Safety Pause

Area of Concern: Aviation Users

Distribution: All Aviation

Discussion: In collaboration between NMAC and the United States Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region, all aviation bases and aviation assets will take a tactical pause at morning briefing on September 2nd to discuss the following topics that are occurring across the state. The work you perform is important and involves high risk. Your safety is top priority. This safety pause is necessary to focus on areas of concern.

Please take a moment of silence for the six pilots who have lost their lives in fire suppression activities this year alone. This is a tragic loss and has deeply profound impacts to their families, friends and our aviation community.

At the morning briefing on September 2nd, discuss the following subjects and the local mitigations that you can put into place:

- Complex airspace
 - Communication issues, operational tempo
 - TFR incursions
 - Multiple TFRs in an area
 - Know where the TFRs in the area and request permission before entering
- Lack of Aerial Supervision over the fire
 - Follow guidelines and policy on needs of Aerial Supervision
- Lack of management and oversight
 - Many fires have trainees without trainers in the Air Operations Branch
- Low Airtanker drops
 - Ensure the line is clear in case of a low drop
- Normalization of flying in low visibility
 - Minimums may not be enough
- Human Factors
 - Fatigue
 - Lack of CRM
 - Not using checklist
- Mitigation measures for Covid-19
 - Unintended consequences, impacts on briefings

Lastly, treat everyone with respect and fairness. Harassment in any form will not be tolerated.

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