

Aerial ignition is a part of a strategy to remove the unburned fuels between the containment line and the active edge of the fire. This tactic may be used in combination with lighting by hand ensuring a safer and more efficient operation.

As the helicopter flies over the area, a dispenser containing small plastic spheres (they look like Ping-Pong balls) filled with potassium permanganate are injected with ethylene glycol and immediately jettisoned; 25 – 30 seconds later the chemicals thermally react to produce a flame that consumes the plastic shell and ignites the surrounding surface fuels.

