# SOUTHERN AREA

# PILOT AND FLIGHT CREW ORIENTATION GUIDE

# **OCALA NATIONAL FOREST**



## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Southern Area. This package provides information to pilots and module leaders who are assigned to the area making your assignment a safe, productive, and pleasant experience by familiarizing yourself with local policies and procedures, radio frequencies, flight hazards, weather patterns, and other information pertinent to your assignment here.

Please contact the Forest Aviation Officer, (FAO) local Zone Aviation Officers (ZAO), dispatch offices, Forest Fire Management Officer (FMO), or other persons listed under the contact lists if you have any questions.

All incoming aircraft managers and pilots to the Region must contact the appropriate local FMO, FAO or ZAO for an initial briefing that includes the following:

- Leader's Intent
- Introductions: management and organization, contractors, crews, and status of incident(s).
- Geographic Orientation, hazard maps, MASPs, base plans, etc.
- Local base operations: parking, local amenities, fuel, transportation, meals, facilities, and rules.
- Point of contact for applicable Interagency Coordination Center procedures
- Radio frequencies
- Local weather
- Incident Action Plan if assigned to a larger incident
- Administration: management codes etc.

# AVIATION SAFETY

No unsafe procedures, practices, or equipment will be knowingly condoned and/or tolerated while operating in Southern Area. A safe air operation requires teamwork and a joint effort by all persons involved in the operation.

We respect your authority as a pilot or module leader for the ultimate responsibility for passengers and flight safety. If you observe any unsafe operations while working on local units or have any concerns, **please** notify the local FMO, Dispatch Office, or FAO-ZAO immediately. We will make every effort to remedy the situation promptly.

# HAZARDOUS FLYING CONDITIONS

Flying in the Southern Area can be hazardous. Elevations in the region vary from sea level to over 6,600 feet on the highest peaks. The terrain is diverse: flat coastal plains to steep slopes, narrow ridge tops, and narrow valley streams with steep and highly dissected canyons and

drainages can be found. Winds, summer temperatures, and high terrain can result in severe turbulence and high-density altitudes that make flying hazardous for fixed and rotor wing aircraft in parts of the area.

Pilots and Managers are usually the first ones to become aware of unsafe flying conditions. **Please** do not hesitate to suggest or recommend that air operations be suspended until conditions improve. Let other aircraft and the appropriate dispatch office know of conditions in the areas you are working in. Your recommendations and actions could be the difference between a safe air operation and someone having an incident or accident.

# Accident and Incident Reporting

Accident and Incident reporting systems are valuable in promoting aviation safety. If you should observe or have an accident or incident, please report it immediately and use the SAFECOM process for follow-up. This form is available through dispatch, Forest Aviation Officer, Zone Aviation Officer(s), or on the Internet at <a href="https://www.safecom.gov/">https://www.safecom.gov/</a>. Sharing information about incidents and accidents that have occurred may prevent them from occurring again in the future. Please return the SAFECOM to or notify the local FAO-ZAO, Dispatch, or Incident Management Team Air Operations Branch of the submitted SAFECOM.

# FLIGHT HAZARDS / LOCAL HAZARDS



# https://gacc.nifc.gov/sacc/logistics/aircraft/OcalaNFAFHM.pdf MILITARY TRAINING ROUTES

There are several MTRs, SUAs, and MOAs throughout the area. Both fixed and rotor wing can be encountered outside the MTRs doing permitted training on public lands within Region 8. Check local flight hazard maps for identified areas. When working in and around those areas, practice "see and avoid" and confirm applicable dispatch centers will de-conflict all aircraft fire operations. Always consider requesting an applicable TFR (for wildfires) or NOTAM D in addition to direct deconfliction with military entities.

See Page 24 for Hazard Map 90% of the Ocala National Forest is covered by Military Restricted Airspace

# DIP SITES

Permission must be obtained from the applicable dispatch center, landowners, or local line officers before utilizing water from any source on Federal lands or for State protected lands. Once a potential water source has been located, the latitude/longitude should be relayed to the dispatch center with the request to utilize the location as a dip site. No water should be taken from the source until verbal approval is granted. The only exception is in the case of an immediate threat to life or property.

#### WATERWAYS

Avoid aerial or ground application of retardant or foam within 500 feet of waterways (highlighted in purple). Remote fueling operations should be avoided next to waterways and areas of concern for aquatic T&E species. Notify dispatch immediately of any fuel spill regardless of size. (*This map depicts the Ocala National Forest avoidance areas and its boundaries. A digital map can be found via QR code on page 24.*)



# THREATENED & ENDANGERED (T&E) SPECIES

As the world's largest contiguous sand pine scrub forest, the Ocala National Forest is home to rare and endangered plant species, including some found nowhere else on earth. Our management plan for the forest includes special caretaking of these species.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service is responsible for listing Proposed, Endangered, and Threatened Species (PETS). The Forest Service cooperates with that agency's efforts in conserving these species by conducting activities and programs to assist in the identification and recovery of threatened and endangered plant and animal species.

Florida bonamia (threatened) has a healthy population in the Big Scrub ecosystem. Scrub buckwheat (threatened) and small Lewton's milkwort (endangered) also occur on the Ocala National Forest where they straddle the scrub and high pineland habitats.

Specific management practices favoring recovery of these, and related scrub species include harvesting sand pine in the scrub ecosystem to provide disturbance at a scale similar to that experienced through natural, periodic, catastrophic fire.

(Unknown, 2022 https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/florida/landmanagement?cid=STELPRDB5160502)

GROUP	SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	THREATENED/ENDANGERED
Mammal	Trichechus manatus	Florida Manatee	Endangered
Bird	Bird Aphelocoma coerulescens		Threatened
Bird	Mycteria americana	Wood Stork	Endangered
Bird	Picoides borealis	Red-Cockaded Woodpecker	Endangered
Reptile	Drymarchon corais couperi	Eastern Indigo Snake	Threatened
Reptile	Neoseps reynoldsi	Sand Skink	Threatened
Vascular Plant	Bonamia grandiflora	Florida Bonamia	Threatened
Vascular Plant	Eriogonum longifolium var. gnaphalifolium	Scrub Buckwheat	Threatened
Vascular Plant	Nolina brittoniana	Britton's Bear Grass	Endangered
Vascular Plant	Polygala lewtonii	Lewton's Polygala	Endangered

# FEDERALLY LISTED SPECIES ON THE OCALA NATIONAL FOREST

## WILDERNESS/WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

Permission must be obtained from the Forest Supervisor before conducting <u>ANY</u> operations in wilderness areas. Contact the applicable dispatch to initiate the approval process.

The Ocala National Forest manages four Wilderness/Wilderness Study Areas. These areas include;

- Little Lake George Wilderness
- Juniper Prairie Wilderness
- Billies Bay Wilderness
- Alexander Springs Wilderness

Note: An Avenza Map of Ocala NF Wilderness areas can be found via QR code found on page 24.

# AIR OPERATIONS

Air operations safety is of the utmost concern to the Region 8 Fire and Aviation Management Section. The local dispatch centers and the Zone Aviation Officer(s) will coordinate all aircraft use on each unit. All decisions regarding aircraft will be coordinated with the local dispatch center, who will work closely with the Southern Area Coordination Center (SACC) for resource aircraft ordering and dispatching.

## <u>AIRSPACE</u>

All air operations will operate utilizing the Fire Traffic Area (FTA) scheme. Requests for Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFRs) and Notices to Airmen (NOTAM) will be coordinated through the applicable dispatch center. Dispatch centers will coordinate requests through SACC.



# PILOT and/or MODULE AVAILABILITY

When pilots and modules are in Region 8, the local dispatch office needs to know your staging location and contact information (hotel number, cell number, etc.). If you are going to lunch, for example, let someone know where you are going. Carry your radio and/or cell phones. It is your responsibility to ensure that you can be contacted during lunch and off-duty hours.

# LATITUDE-LONGITUDE PROCEDURES

All aviation operations in the Southern Area will use the *Degrees-Decimal-Minutes* format for Latitude and Longitude. **Aviation Datum standard is WGS84** 

# FLIGHT FOLLOWING PROCEDURES

Region 8 uses the national standard for all aircraft flight following. Contact local dispatch center with applicable *"dispatch call sign"* Check-ins via <u>AFF are preferred</u> unless other arrangements have been established through local Dispatch.

If AFF transponder in the aircraft does not work or fails during mission, contact local dispatch center to establish radio communication. Establish 15 min verbal flight following check-ins in place of utilizing AFF, this is an accepted practice. Repair AFF transponder as soon available. When fixed, relay updated status to dispatch and test capabilities.

If requested, Radio Check-in/Check-out requires verbal communication via radio every 15 minutes. Provide an identifier (tail # or nationally designated call sign), Latitude/Longitude (Geographic Location), and bearing.

Flight following is for your safety. If a mission requires that you work from a helispot for an extended period, we recommend that you flight follow locally with your aircraft until you complete the mission; notify dispatch of your intentions. When using local flight following, please contact dispatch when operations have begun and when the missions are completed, and the aircraft is on the ground.

If your mission requires that the aircraft be shut down for an extended amount of time, notify the local dispatch before shutting down the aircraft and ensure a handheld radio is on board. If the dispatch center does not hear from you within 30 minutes, Search and Rescue operations will be initiated. Aircraft equipped with AFF will follow procedures outlined in the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.

# STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR ENTERING & EXITING SMOKEY BASE

This part of the document is designed to brief rotor winged pilots and their crews of the proper producers for entering and exiting the airspace of Restricted Areas; *2906,2907A,2907B, 2910A, 2910B, 2910C, 2910D and 2910E* when operating out of the Ocala Helibase, otherwise known as Smokey Helibase. It does <u>NOT</u>, in any way, supersede military or Federal Aviation Administration regulations in respect to the operation of aircraft in and around restricted airspace. The intention of this part of the document is to enhance the safety of all flights in and around the Ocala National Forest. Smokey Base is located on the eastern side of Restricted Area *2910A*. The base is located on the Ocala National Forest and provides adequate landing zones and facilities for pilots and their crews while conducting various types of missions for the US Forest Service and their cooperators.

All rotor winged aircraft on missions for the Ocala National Forest that are working in and around these restricted areas will be assigned a *FireGuard* number, such as *"FireGuard* 1 (*FG1*)". This numbering system is designed to allow easy identification by US Navy controllers (*SEALORD*) for those aircraft working on the forest. The assigned *FireGuard* number will be assigned in sequential order per tail number and will remain that aircrafts *FireGuard* number for the remainder of that calendar year. Then numbering system will start over on January 1<sup>st</sup> each year. The Following is a check list of procedures to follow when entering and/or exiting the above-mentioned restricted areas and the role of pilots, aircrews, and dispatchers.

#### PRIOR TO LIFTING FROM SMOKEY BASE:

• Prior to lifting from Smokey Base, the Helibase manager notifies SEALORD Controls with the designated *FireGuard* call sign and request status of the Restricted Areas.

# Note: This is a courtesy call only. It is the pilot's ultimate responsibility to make positive contact with SEALORD on Air to Air (A/A) 134.650 prior to operating in any of the restricted areas.

#### ONCE LIFTED FROM SOMKEY BASE:

• Once lifted, aircraft contacts SEALORD on A/A 134.650 to request permission to exit the restricted area and will request a SQUAWK code, giving SEALORD the intended direction of flight and desired altitude.

• Pilot notifies SEALORD when clear of Restricted Areas. Pilot and Helibase will continue to monitor A/A 134.650 throughout the flight.

#### PRIOR TO ENTERING RESTRICTED AREAS:

• Pilot contacts SEALORD to request permissions to transition through or enter in Restricted Area.

#### EXITING RESTRICTED AREAS:

• Pilot contacts SEALORD on A/A 134.650 to report clear of restricted area.

#### LANDING SMOKEY BASE:

- Pilot notifies Smokey Base 2 minutes out from landing.
- Pilot notifies SEALORD when landing at Smokey Base and clear of Restricted Area 2910A.
- Helibase manager makes courtesy call to SEALORD to confirm aircraft is clear of Restricted Area 2910A.

# IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO CONTACT DISPATCH and/or SEALORD, YOU WILL NEED TO RETURN TO HELIBASE BASE.

STANDARD FLIGHT FOLLOWING SCRIPT TO INITIATE FLIGHT FOLLOWING:

Call sign Departure location Number on board Fuel on board (hours) ETE Destination Confirm AFF

# **COMMUNICATIONS**

Initial size-ups are to be transmitted over local forest frequencies. Upon arrival at an incident, all communications should switch over to the identified tactical frequency (*typically air to ground*). For emergency in-flight communications utilize National Air Guard (168.6250 RX/TX T: 110.9).

# LOCAL DISPATCH ZONE RADIO FREQUENCIES

Refer to the Frequency Guide to ensure all frequencies are understood and programmed correctly into your aircraft and handheld radios. Familiarize yourself with the repeater map for locations and tones. This information is available on the Southern Area Coordination Center Webpage. Contact your local dispatch center for the username and password to access frequencies and hazard maps. PLEASE DO NOT GIVE OUT USERNAMES OR PASSWORDS TO NON-AGENCY PERSONNEL OR TO ANYONE WITHOUT A NEED FOR THAT INFORMATION.

If assigned frequencies become too busy and communications begin to break down, notify Dispatch immediately. Air operations may be suspended until the problem(s) are mitigated. Please make sure that your Aircraft Radios are operating in the appropriate bandwidth (Analog Narrow Band or Digital).

# OCALA NATIONAL FOREST RADIO FREQUENCY LIST

The Ocala National Forest uses digital frequencies. All RX/TX NAC need to be programed accordingly.

CHANNEL NUMBER	FFS Channel	Channel Name	RX Freq.	<b>RX</b> Tone	RX NAC	TX Freq.	TX NAC	TX Tone
1		Admin	170.5250		\$F7E	170.5250	\$293	
2	139	COMMON 2	163.7125		- 3 - A.S. 2	163.7125	S-energian S	
3	138	R8 Fire	166.5625			166.5625		
4		FL Fire	169.1750			169.1750	1	
5	132	F- North	172.3750		\$F7E	165.2250	\$61F	156.7
6	133	F-Central	172.3750		\$F7E	165.2250	\$4CE	123.0
7	134	F-South	172.3750		\$F7E	165.2250	\$526	131.8
8		A-North	170.5250		\$F7E	163.6875	\$61F	156.7
9		A-Central	170.5250		\$F7E	163.6875	\$4CE	123.0
10		A-South	170.5250		\$F7E	163.6875	\$526	131.8
11	201	VFIRE22R	154.2650			154.2650		156.7
12	202	VFIRE21W	154.2800			154.2800		156.7
13	203	VFIRE23B	154.2950			154.2950		156.7
14	204	A2G 79	169.4000			169.4000		
15		A2G 34	167.1750			167.1750		
16		Air Guard	168.6250			168.6250		110.9

## AIRBASE INFORMATION

Below is airbase information, when activated, can be used to preposition both Fixed-wing and Rotor-wing aviation resources.

Name: Smokey Helibase (Rotor-wing only) Latitude/Longitude: Elevation: Phone: (352)-759-2081 Fax: (352)-759-2178 POC: Will Lucas "Ocala Helitack Program Manager" Phone: (352)-262-1957 Fuel Available: N/A Type of Service: N/A A/C Host Type(s): N/A Ramp Frequency: N/A Address: 18634 NFS 24 Road Altoona, FL 32702 Managing Entity: National Forests of Florida Ocala National Forest

# R8 RAG PHONE CONTACTS

Position	Name	Office	Cell
Regional Aviation Officer	Keith Hackbarth	770-237-0119 x1008	406-381-8203
Assistant Regional Aviation Officer (Operations)	Caleb Berry		202-870-1778
Regional Aviation Safety Manager	Jimmy Keyes	404-780-0590	770-233-3637
Regional Helicopter Operations Specialist	Vacant	770-237-0119 x1002	
Helicopter Inspector Pilot	Vacant	770-237-0119 x1014	
Airworthiness Inspector	Donna Shope	770-237-0119 x1015	404-386-4849
UAS Specialist (Fire)	Terry Owen		601-660-6316
UAS Specialist (NRM)	Andrew Ruth		540-305-4624
South Zone Aviation Officer (GA, FL, SC, PR)	Josh Pierotte	770-237-0119 x1010	559-909-9151
Central Zone Aviation Officer (AL, MS, LA)	Nick Holschbach		406-925-1737
West Zone Aviation Officer (TX, AR, OK)	Grady Wilson		208-880-1725
East Zone Aviation Officer (TN, NC, VA, KY)	Mike Bot		423-596-1538
Southern Area Coord. Center		678-320-3000	
Southern Area Coord. Center- Aircraft Coordinator	Al Mebane	678-320-3012	470-487-7671
WO Helicopter Inspector Pilot	Larry Roberts	770-237-0119 x1004	404-909-0245
NPS Regional Aviation Manager	Mike O'Leary	239-336-9789	301-980-8711
FWS Regional Aviation POC	Chris Wright		386-804-6391
BIA Regional Aviation POC	Chester Warfel	615-564-6500	615-927-1232

# DISPATCH ZONE CONTACTS - OCALA NATIONAL FOREST

FLORIDA INTERAGENCY COORDINATION CENTER *"TALLAHASSEE DISPATCH"* 325 John Know Rd Tallahassee, FL 32303 850-523-8600

POSTION	NAME	OFFICE	CELL
OCALA NF FMO	Vacant		
OCALA NF AFMO (LAKE GEORGE DISTRICT)	John "JR" Ramsey		(386)-871-4287
OCALA NF AFMO (SEMINOLE DISTRICT)	Tim Woody		(352)-299-7697
OCALA HELITACK PROGRAM MANAGER	Will Lucas		(352)-262-1957
OCALA HELITACK ASST. MANAGER	Clint Agidius		(386)-585-0848
OCALA HELITACK ASST. MANAGER	Paul Ward		(208)-290-6438
OCALA HELITACK ASST. MANAGER	Josh Quinn		(401)-226-2987

# DISPATCH ZONE MISHAP RESPONSE/ SAR PROCEDURES / CRASH RESCUE PLAN

#### DISPATCH ZONE MISHAP RESPONSE:

#### SAR PROCEDURES:

Search and Rescue (SAR) operations on the Ocala National Forest will be conducted by the Sheriff's Office in which jurisdiction that operation is taking place. Marion County Sheriff's Office will have jurisdiction of (SAR) in Marion County & Lake County Sheriff's Office will have jurisdiction over (SAR) in Lake County. The Ocala National Forest resources will assist these departments as needed.

#### CRASH RESCUE PLAN:

https://usfs-public.box.com/s/mocrdcc0457coah691i8qo65feplkoxu

# MEDICAL PLAN

#### **LINE EMERGENCY** (Once any injury/illness has occurred):

• The highest qualified & capable person on scene will assume the IWI IC command.

• Report the emergency via the Medical Incident Report protocol (Eight Line) to Tallahassee Dispatch.

• Radio traffic will be cleared until medical emergency is finished.

## • DO NOT USE THE INJURED PERSON'S NAME ON THE RADIO.

- Request additional resources as needed e.g., (Crews, Law Enforcement etc.).
- Request patient transport mode e.g., (GOV vehicle, Ambulance, Air Ambulance etc.).
- All resources will be coordinated through Tallahassee Dispatch.
- Coordinate all ground Ambulance needs through Tallahassee Dispatch.
- Coordinate all Air Ambulance needs through Tallahassee Dispatch.
- Protect the scene.
- Complete & submit appropriate documentation.

# MEDICAL FACILITIES LIST

#### BURN CENTERS:

University of Florida Health Shand's Burn Center 1600 SW Archer Rd RM 2425 Gainesville, FL 32610 352-265-0200

## HOSPITALS LEVEL 1 TRAUMA CENTERS:

University of Florida Health Shand's Medical 151 SW Archer Rd Gainesville, FL 32608 352-265-0111

Orlando Regional Medical Center 52 W Underwood St Orlando, FL 32806 321-841-5111

University of Florida Health Jacksonville 655 8<sup>TH</sup> St W Jacksonville, FL 32209 904-244-0411

#### HOSPITALS LEVEL 2 TRAUMA CENTERS:

HCA Florida Ocala Hospital 1431 SW 1<sup>st</sup> Ave Ocala, FL 34471 352-401-1000 HCA Florida Lake Monroe 1401 W Seminole Blvd Sanford, FL 32771 407-321-4500

#### ADDITIONAL HOSPITAL INFORMATION & URGENT CARE:

Advent Health Waterman Hospital 1000 Waterman Way Tavares, FL 32778 352-253-3333

Advent Health Hospital Ocala 1500 SW 1<sup>st</sup> Ave Ocala, FL 34471 352-353-0449

Care Spot Urgent Care of Ocala 2415 SW College Rd Ocala, FL 34474 352-237-3536

Lake Regional Urgent Care 16890 US-441 Mt Dora, FL 32757 352-385-4404

Doctors Urgent Care Ocala 419 SW 15<sup>th</sup> St Ocala, FL 34471 352-269-8099

## FIRE DANGER POCKET CARD

Ocolo NF - FORA FL 6 Energy Release Component







Insi Made 1(14)

Fire Danger Area: FL6-Ocala National Forest Forecast Zone: Jacksonville, FL Weather Stations: 083501 Central 083502 Lake George 084001 Paisley

#### Local Thresholds - WATCHOUT:

Combinations of any of these factors can increase fire behavior: 20' windspeed over 15 mph; Temperatures over 90 degrees; Relative humidity < 30; KBDI > 625. Large fires become more frequent when ERC exceeds 28 and BI exceeds 20.

Graph Interpretation: Energy Release Component (ERC)

 ERC gives seasonal trends calculated from temperature, RH, daily temp & RH ranges, and precipitation duration. Wind is NOT part of ERC calculation.

Max: Highest ERC by day 2011-2020

Average: shows peak fire season

90% = 90th percentile means 10% of days in analysis had ERC over 28

#### Past Experience/Local Knowledge:

- · Expect extreme fire behavior in areas with high fuel loads
- Green fuels that contain volatile oils and waxes can burn even under high fuel moisture content
- Afternoon sea breezes usually leads to thunderstorms and sometimes lightning
- Some fuels are available to burn ~ 1hour post rainfall
- 4WD is required in areas containing sandy or mucky soils
- During dry conditions, swamps may not contain water and should NOT be considered a safety zone
- Problematic fire behavior is likely if ERC >28, BI >20, and Dispersion Index >75 Graph Interpretation: Burning Index (BI)
  - · BI gives day to day fluctuations calculated from temperature, RH, wind, and precipitation.

Max: Highest Burning Index by day 2011-2020 Average: shows peak fire season

90% = 90th percentile means 10% of days in analysis had BI over 20



#### INITIAL ATTACK SIZE UP CARD

#### DETECTION REPORT

1.	Incident Number:	
2.	Location by Landmark:	
З.	Legal: 14 14 SEC T	N
	F	2 W
4.	Coordinates: LAT LONG	
5.	Est. Size and Potential:	
6.	Exposure/Aspect:	
7.	Rate of Spread: RaidModerateSlow	
8.	Flame Length:	
9.	Position on Slope: Low 1/3Midsle Upper 1/3	-
10.	Slope: Gentle Moderate	Steep
11.	Fuels: Burning In:	
	Burning Into:	
12.	Wind: SpeedDirection	
13.	Smoke: ColorVolume	Drift
14	Percentage of Perimeter with Active Fire _	
	Other Information cess Roads	
Hel	lispots	
Buc	cket Fill Sites	
Res	source Needs (Numbers and Type)	

Other -

Note: Ocala National Forest Incident Organizers may be handed out during in brief of resources.

# INITIAL ATTACK CONT.

Fires are generally first reported to us by a District Office. Occasionally fires are reported to the Coordination Center and the information is relayed back to the district. Be sure to collect as much information as possible from the reporting party, *i.e., location, weather conditions, fire behavior, evidence of arson activity, etc.* <u>ALWAYS</u> record the person's name reporting the incident and a phone number where they can be reached for additional information if needed.

When the first person arrives at the fire, a size-up of the situation should be relayed to the District FMO or Duty Officer immediately to assist in the dispatch of further resources. The Center Manager at Tallahassee Dispatch must be notified immediately. Coordination of resources that exceed those available on the district is the responsibility of the Center Manger. A blank detection report is provided to assist in complete, accurate transfer of information.

#### Bombing Range Fires:

## GUIDELINES FOR FIRE SUPPRESSION ON THE PINECASTLE BOMBING RANGE COMPLEX

*Note: References within these guidelines to the Main Fire Break includes all locations inside the Orange Area indicated in* **(Attachment A on page 10).** 

When a fire is reported within any of the Bombing Range boundaries, Restricted Areas R2910 or R2906, or in close proximity to them, the following actions will be taken:

## Tallahassee Dispatch will:

• Notify the assigned Ocala N.F. Exclusive Use Helicopter Manager for Incident Commander (IC) duties.

• Dispatch the Ocala N.F. Exclusive Use Helicopter, with its Helicopter Manager to determine the exact location of the fire.

Note: Typically, military aircraft are raised to 5,000 ft. MSL and above to allow safe operation of firefighting aircraft when there is a fire on the range(s). Military Aircraft can continue to utilize the affected airspace if the Helicopter Manager/IC determines it is safe to do so and proper separation between aircraft is maintained. Also, if a fire grows beyond the IC's qualifications, this person shall be assigned to shadow an IC with higher qualifications to ensure established policies and guidelines for the Pinecastle Range Complex are adhered to.

## The Helicopter Manager/IC will:

• Obtain a location of the fire in relation to the map provided in **(Attachment A on page 10)** and relay to the Zone FMO and Tallahassee Dispatch.

• Assess the fire for current fire behavior, potential growth, and values at risk. (Depending on fire potential, order additional resources to stage at the perimeter of the bombing range for pre-suppression or suppression activities).

• Direct aviation activities and ensure the pilot(s) is fully aware of the guidelines set forth within this document.

• Keep the Ocala N.F. District Ranger, the Ocala Zone Fire Management Officer, and Pinecastle Range Complex Director and/or SEALORD informed of the fire's status.

- Coordinate with the Pinecastle Complex Range Director when range activities can resume.
- Adhere to the guidelines set forth in this document.

Note: Range activities may resume at any time if aviation assets are not going to be utilized and the helicopter manager/IC determines range activities will not have further impact on the fire, fire personnel or any suppression activities. This determination should be made in coordination with the Pinecastle Range Director and/or SEALORD.

# If the fire is inside the Main Fire Break and an Exclusive Use or CWN helicopter <u>IS</u> available, the assigned Ocala Exclusive Use Helicopter Manager will:

• Be dispatched on board the helicopter for reconnaissance and assessment ONLY. The exclusive use helicopter manager will serve as the IC to the limits of their qualifications since this person will be the most informed and up to date on bombing range restrictions and guidelines.

• Ensure that all U.S. Forest Service agency owned or contracted aircraft flights over the bombing ranges will be performed from a safe distance. When an active fire is within the Main Fire Break, no aircraft will be allowed within 4,000 ft. vertically and 4,000 ft. horizontally of the fire.

**NO** suppression actions will be taken within the Main Fire Break of R2906 or R2910, either aerial or on the ground, due to unexploded ordinance, unless first approved by Range Personnel.

Note: As long as the fire remains inside the Main Fire Break, it will be allowed to burn. If the fire threatens or is going to threaten any of the pre-established fire breaks on the bombing range, aerial pre-suppression activities such as bucket drops, or tanker drops can be made outside of the Main Fire Break to pre-treat fuels before the fire jumps the line.

# If the fire is inside the Main Fire Break and an Exclusive Use or CWN helicopter is <u>NOT</u> available, the assigned Ocala Exclusive Use Helicopter Manager will:

- Be dispatched to the affected bombing range to meet with Range Personnel.
- Be escorted as close to the fire as safely possible by Range Personnel.
- Make a determination if approved suppression activities are needed or possible.
- Monitor the fire from a safe position on the ground or in one of the two observation towers located within the Main Fire Break in R2910.

<u>NO</u> suppression action will be taken within the Main Fire Break of R2906 or R2910, either aerial

or on the ground, due to unexploded ordinance.

Note: Zone FMO, (BLANK), Helicopter Program Manager Will Lucas, Assistant Manager (BLANK) and Helicopter Crew Lead David Whitener are trained to be escorts if Range Personnel are not available. A range gate key and radio are kept at the Ocala Helibase

If the fire is outside of the Main Fire Break but within the bombing range or in close proximity to it and an Exclusive Use or CWN helicopter <u>IS</u> available, the assigned Ocala Exclusive Use Helicopter Manager/IC will:

• Be dispatched via helicopter to recon the fire. Aerial suppression efforts may be conducted in <u>MOST</u> but not all of these areas outside the Main Fire Break. The Helicopter Manager/IC will be aware of which areas are off limits. (*See Attachment A on page 22)*.

- Determine if suppression activities are needed.
- Order any needed resources through Tallahassee Dispatch.

**NO** ground suppression efforts inside the range boundary that may cause surface disturbance.

If the fire is outside of the Main Fire Break but within the bombing range or in close proximity to it and an Exclusive Use or CWN helicopter is <u>NOT</u> available, the assigned Ocala Exclusive Use Helicopter Manager/IC will:

- Be dispatched to the affected bombing range to meet with Range Personnel.
- Be escorted as close to the fire as safely possible by range personnel.
- Make a determination if approved suppression activities are needed or possible.

• Monitor the fire from a safe position on the ground or in one of the two observation towers located within the target area in R2910.

**NO** ground suppression efforts inside the range boundary that may cause surface disturbance.

# Guidelines For Pinecastle Range Complex fires that are not easily controlled and grow beyond the capability of initial attack resources:

• Additional resources will be ordered through Tallahassee Dispatch.

• Burn-out operations are permissible when deemed necessary by the IC and coordinated with the Range Director.

• At the IC's discretion, fires on the bombing range(s) may be suppressed utilizing aviation resources unless the fire is located within the Main Fire Break. No agency or contracted aircraft will be allowed inside the Main Fire Break when there is an active fire ongoing within its perimeter. This includes any fixed winged aircraft, such as detection planes, Air Attack, or aerial tankers.

• Fires in the No Plow Zones on the Ocala N.F. are to be suppressed in the same manner as fires in the orange area as indicated in **(Attachment A on page 22.)** 

• Any Helicopter Manager assigned to initial attack/IC duties on the Pinecastle Range Complex or any of the associated No Plow Zones guidelines, shall be briefed with all incoming resources at the time of their appointment.



# ATTACHMENT A

#### SITUATION REPORT:

The Center Manager or other designated individual will update the Situation Report via FAMWEB by 1600 daily. Information for this report will be as complete and accurate as possible to provide necessary activity and resource statistics.

#### INDIVIDUAL FIRE REPORT:

The Individual Fire Report "Informs" records important data for planning and administering fire management activities. This report is required for each statistical fire within 10 days after the fire is declared out.

The report is a compilation of suppression action, resources, and site data. It should be reviewed and edited by the Duty Officer and approved by the District Ranger prior to submittal to the Center Manager. Forest-specific information, such as weather station numbers and incident numbers, is contained in the Fire Management Plan or may be obtained from the Center Manager and should be kept on file. A hard copy of each fire report will be kept in the permanent files and the data entered the proper database.

Note: All off forest resources with IC 3,4 or 5 responsibilities and are in command of such operations, fill out incident organizer as thorough as possible and turn all documentation into District AFMO for data entry. Inform fire data entry can be found at; <u>https://inform.firenet.gov/inspector/incidents</u>

## HOTEL INFORMATION

#### SEMINOLE RANGER DISTRICT

**Fox Den Inn** 27 S Central Ave Umatilla, FL 32784 352-669-2151

**Comfort Suites** 1380 E Burleigh Blvd Tavares, FL 32778 352-253-2378

Hampton Inn 19700 US - 441 Mt Dora, FL 32757 352-383-4267

Holiday Inn Express 3601 W Burleigh Blvd US HWY 441 Tavares, FL 32778 352-742-1600

#### Best Western

1321 N 14<sup>TH</sup> St Leesburg, FL 34748 352-253-2378

#### Key West Resort

199 W Ruby St Tavares, FL 32778 352-508-5344

#### LAKE GEORGE RANGER DISTRICT

**Courtyard by Marriott** 3712 SW 38<sup>th</sup> Ave Ocala, FL 34474 352-237-8000

Holiday Inn 3600 SW 38<sup>th</sup> Ave Ocala, FL 34474 352-629-9500

Hilton 3600 SW 36<sup>th</sup> Ave Ocala, FL 34474 352-854-1400

Holiday Inn Express 5360 E Silver Springs Blvd Silver Springs, FL 34488 352-304-6111 MAP APPENDIX: LOCAL MAPS, HYPERLINKS or QR CODES

\*LOCAL INFORMATION INPUT: Retardant Avoidance Areas, Retardant Jettison Area(s), MTR, and Special Use Airspace, Helispots, Dip Sites,

https://usfs-public.box.com/s/mocrdcc0457coah691i8qo65feplkoxu



(Version 1.1 – 02/01/21)





Note: An Avenza geo-referenced map can be found via QR code on page 24.



Note: An Avenza geo-reference map can be found via QR code on page 24.

# LIST OF HELISPOTS ON THE OCALA NATIONAL FOREST

Number	Name	LongitudeDDM	Latitude DDM
H-1	HWY 19 Helispot	-81° 44.318'	29° 26.683'
H-2	OHV Helispot	-81° 48.271'	29° 23.947'
H-3	Salt Springs HS	-81° 44.260'	29° 21.530'
H-3 H-4	Mill Dam Helispot	-81° 51.118'	29° 10.352'
H-5	Woods & Lake Helispot	-81° 53.373'	29° 7.212'
H-6	FR 14 Helispot	-81° 48.847'	29° 2.618'
H-7	Clearw ater Lake Helispot	-81° 33.287'	28° 58.376'
H-8	Lake Tracy HS	-81° 28.458'	29° 0.707'
Smokey Helibase	Smokey Helibase	-81° 37.808'	29° 6.303'

# FREQUENTLY USED AIRCRAFT FORMS:

Helicopter Operation Forms:

https://www.nwcg.gov/sites/default/files/publications/510-nsho-hcm-forms-2019.xlsx



NWCG Interagency Aviation Publications: https://www.nwcg.gov/committees/national-interagency-aviation-committee/publications



Daily Operational Risk Assessment (DORA):

## **SMOKEY HELIBASE SUNRISE / SUNSET TABLE**

o , o , Location: W081 38, N29 06 SMOKEY HELIBASE Rise and Set for the Sun for 2023 Astronomical Applications Dept. U. S. Naval Observatory Washington, DC 20392-5420

Zone: 4h West of Greenwich

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Day	Rise Set											
	hm hm											
01	0820 1840	0815 1905	0752 1926	0717 1945	0645 2002	0628 2021	0631 2030	0647 2018	0704 1948	0720 1912	0739 1841	0803 1828
02	0821 1841	0815 1906	0751 1927	0715 1945	0644 2003	0628 2021	0632 2030	0648 2018	0705 1947	0720 1911	0740 1840	0803 1828
03	0821 1841	0814 1907	0750 1927	0714 1946	0644 2004	0628 2022	0632 2030	0648 2017	0705 1946	0721 1910	0741 1839	0804 1828
04	0821 1842	0814 1907	0749 1928	0713 1946	0643 2004	0627 2022	0632 2029	0649 2016	0706 1945	0721 1909	0741 1839	0805 1828
05	0821 1843	0813 1908	0748 1929	0712 1947	0642 2005	0627 2023	0633 2029	0649 2015	0706 1944	0722 1908	0742 1838	0806 1828
06	0821 1844	0812 1909	0747 1929	0711 1948	0641 2006	0627 2023	0633 2029	0650 2014	0707 1943	0722 1907	0743 1837	0806 1828
07	0821 1844	0812 1910	0746 1930	0710 1948	0640 2006	0627 2024	0634 2029	0651 2014	0707 1941	0723 1905	0744 1836	0807 1829
08	0821 1845	0811 1911	0744 1931	0708 1949	0640 2007	0627 2024	0634 2029	0651 2013	0708 1940	0723 1904	0744 1836	0808 1829
09	0822 1846	0810 1911	0743 1931	0707 1949	0639 2007	0627 2025	0635 2029	0652 2012	0708 1939	0724 1903	0745 1835	0809 1829
10	0822 1847	0809 1912	0742 1932	0706 1950	0638 2008	0627 2025	0635 2029	0652 2011	0709 1938	0725 1902	0746 1835	0809 1829
11	0822 1847	0809 1913	0741 1932	0705 1950	0638 2009	0627 2025	0636 2028	0653 2010	0709 1937	0725 1901	0747 1834	0810 1829
12	0822 1848	0808 1914	0740 1933	0704 1951	0637 2009	0627 2026	0636 2028	0653 2009	0710 1935	0726 1900	0747 1834	0811 1830
13	0821 1849	0807 1915	0739 1934	0703 1952	0636 2010	0627 2026	0637 2028	0654 2008	0710 1934	0726 1859	0748 1833	0811 1830
14	0821 1850	0806 1915	0738 1934	0702 1952	0636 2011	0627 2027	0637 2028	0655 2007	0711 1933	0727 1858	0749 1833	0812 1830
15	0821 1851	0805 1916	0736 1935	0701 1953	0635 2011	0627 2027	0638 2027	0655 2007	0711 1932	0728 1857	0750 1832	0813 1831
16	0821 1852	0805 1917	0735 1935	0700 1953	0634 2012	0627 2027	0638 2027	0656 2006	0712 1931	0728 1856	0751 1832	0813 1831
17	0821 1852	0804 1918	0734 1936	0659 1954	0634 2012	0627 2028	0639 2027	0656 2005	0712 1929	0729 1855	0751 1831	0814 1831
18	0821 1853	0803 1918	0733 1937	0658 1955	0633 2013	0628 2028	0639 2026	0657 2004	0713 1928	0729 1853	0752 1831	0814 1832
19	0821 1854	0802 1919	0732 1937	0657 1955	0633 2014	0628 2028	0640 2026	0657 2003	0713 1927	0730 1852	0753 1830	0815 1832
20	0820 1855	0801 1920	0731 1938	0656 1956	0632 2014	0628 2028	0640 2025	0658 2002	0714 1926	0731 1851	0754 1830	0815 1833
21	0820 1856	0800 1921	0729 1938	0655 1956	0632 2015	0628 2029	0641 2025	0658 2001	0714 1924	0731 1850	0755 1830	0816 1833
22	0820 1857	0759 1921	0728 1939	0654 1957	0631 2015	0628 2029	0641 2024	0659 2000	0715 1923	0732 1850	0756 1830	0817 1834
23	0819 1857	0758 1922	0727 1940	0653 1958	0631 2016	0629 2029	0642 2024	0659 1958	0715 1922	0733 1849	0756 1829	0817 1834
24	0819 1858	0757 1923	0726 1940	0652 1958	0630 2017	0629 2029	0643 2023	0700 1957	0716 1921	0733 1848	0757 1829	0817 1835
25	0819 1859	0756 1923	0725 1941	0651 1959	0630 2017	0629 2029	0643 2023	0701 1956	0716 1920	0734 1847	0758 1829	0818 1835
26	0818 1900	0755 1924	0724 1941	0650 1959	0630 2018	0629 2029	0644 2022	0701 1955	0717 1918	0735 1846	0759 1829	0818 1836
27	0818 1901	0754 1925	0722 1942	0649 2000	0629 2018	0630 2029	0644 2022	0702 1954	0717 1917	0735 1845	0800 1828	0819 1836
28	0817 1902	0753 1925	0721 1942	0648 2001	0629 2019	0630 2029	0645 2021	0702 1953	0718 1916	0736 1844	0800 1828	0819 1837
29	0817 1903		0720 1943	0647 2001	0629 2019	0630 2030	0645 2020	0703 1952	0718 1915	0737 1843	0801 1828	0819 1838
30	0816 1903		0719 1944	0646 2002	0628 2020	0631 2030	0646 2020	0703 1951	0719 1914	0738 1842	0802 1828	0820 1838
31	0816 1904		0718 1944		0628 2020		0647 2019	0704 1950		0738 1842		0820 1839

Add one hour for daylight time, if and when in use.

#### FLIGHT RISK ASSESMENT TOOL

# Daily Go/No-Go DORA Questionnaire for Helicopter Operations

Intent- This document intends to provide the user with an operational evaluation of the approved risk assessment systems denoted and mitigated to the lowest acceptable level in the MASP. This document will narrow down generalized risk categories to a Go/No-Go end value. If a category is rated as a No-Go, the mission can only be conducted if conducive policy mitigations have been identified and applied to the mission. The local unit will set the requirement of a post-No-Go mitigation chain of approval. Post-no-go mitigations will be documented in the daily diaries or other approved documents.

\*\*Note\*\* Mission Supervisor signature implies all personnel involved in the mission provided input into this form.

Day of Mission Risk Assessment Mission Minimum Parameters	Go (Yes)	No-Go (No)
Are the personnel assigned qualified for the mission and meet agency minimums?		
Do fully qualified personnel outnumber trainees?		
Is there appropriate supervision to conduct the mission?		
Has/have your pilot(s) conducted required mission planning per policy or contract?		
Has the mission planning shown the aircraft will not be limited in any way where the flight profiles are conducted under 500 Ft. MSL/AGL pending terrain?		
Has the airspace been deconflicted for the mission?		
Have known flight hazards been discussed and mitigated to acceptable levels to conduct operations?		
Is the weather conducive to conducting the mission within policy and aircraft performance?		
Has fatigue been identified by the pilot(s) or flight crew as an issue or pilots within 8 hours of their 6/36?		

#### Mission Supervisor-

#### Pilot-

#### Mission Approver- No-Go mitigation (if unit Required)

Note: The Daily Operational Risk Assessment (DORA) or an equivalent risk assessment will be discussed and signed daily. Access to this document can be found via QR code on page 28.