



**ACT Rural Fire Service
Standard Operating Procedure 2.2
Use Of Air Observers**

2.2
Incident
Management

Purpose

This procedure covers the roles and responsibilities of Air Observers, and the callout arrangements for the use of Air Observers.

Operating Procedure.

The Air Observer is responsible for obtaining accurate intelligence information of fire activity and fire control progress from an aircraft. Their primary duties are fire detection and fire reconnaissance and Air Observers may be dispatched to obtain specific information, making direct contact with ground crews and supplying fire information requested by them.

An Air Observer will not give command instructions in relation to the fire unless specifically tasked for that purpose or in the event of an emergency situation.

The RFS Chief Officer, RFS Duty Officer (RFS DO) or Incident Controller may at any time override the air observer tasking and authorise priority use of the aircraft by other emergency service personnel.

The provision of timely and accurate information to the incident control centre is a high priority. If conditions preclude the fulfilment of this objective then the flight should be terminated.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Air Observers responsibilities include:

- Pre-flight checks and procedures;
- Fire detection;
- Fire mapping and reconnaissance;
- Pilot briefing and pilot direction;
- Fire reporting; and
- Post flight requirements.

AIR OBSERVER SKILLS

The roles and responsibilities of the Air Observers require them to have sound skills and knowledge in the following:

- Map reading and navigation;
- ICS;
- Use of GPS; and
- Aerial reconnaissance flight plan preparation.



ACT Rural Fire Service
Standard Operating Procedure 2.2
Use Of Air Observers

2.2
Incident
Management

All air observers must have obtained appropriate qualifications in this area as determined by the ACTRFS and outlined in the ACTRFS Training booklet.

CALLOUT

The RFS DO or Incident Controller calls out Air Observers. Air Observers may be asked to conduct or participate in reconnaissance and detection flights within the ACT as well as in the surrounding NSW region. The RFS DO will use the Air Observer roster to determine which Air Observer to utilise.

Maintained By: Manager, Operations

Approved By: Andrew Stark

Position: Chief Officer RFS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Stark', on a light green background.

Signature:

Date: 15/02/2011

Cross Reference SOP/s: SOP 2.1 Acceptable use of aircraft

Amendments: