



USDA Forest Service Fire and Aviation Management Briefing Paper



Date: April 30, 2016

Topic: “Alaska User Training” equivalent to “A-100 Basic Aviation Safety”

Issue: Alaska User Training (AUT) determination of equivalency to A-100 – Basic Aviation Safety.

Background: Region 10 (Alaska) states: “*Our mission is to lead in the conservation and wise use of Alaska’s nation forests. . .*” Due to the remoteness of worksites both fixed and rotor wing aircraft are often utilized in the execution of this mission. The desired positive *Aviation Safety Culture* is informed, flexible, learning, just and is a reporting culture that captures employee operational knowledge and experience.

Alaska User Training (AUT) provides the aviation user with a foundation of knowledge, skills and abilities to safely utilize aircraft to accomplish agency missions. The course is founded on basic aviation safety principles and provides specific content and updates for aviation users in Region 10. It captures lessons learned and the aviation operational knowledge and experience of subject matter experts from within the region.

Alaska User Training (AUT) has been developed by aviation subject matter experts and aviation safety personnel from the Tongass and Chugach National Forests in Alaska in consultation with the Region 6/10 Regional Aviation Safety Manager. This training is customized to meet the needs of the region’s mission.

The Forest Service Manual (FSM) 5720.06 – Training Requirements states “*Managers, supervisors and employees shall use the Interagency Aviation Training Guide (FSM 5706) to determine minimum course and currency requirements at the full performance level for all Forest Service personnel involved in aviation operations.*”

The 2014 Interagency Aviation Training Guide requires A-100 Basic Aviation Safety for all personnel working in and around aircraft and essential to ensure the safety and successful outcome of the mission. The course covers employee safety for helicopter and airplane operations. A-100 – Basic Aviation Safety is a general 5 hour course that provides information on the roles and responsibilities of flight and aircrew members in aviation operations. The course underwent a major revision in January 2013.

Region 10 aviation professionals reviewed and revised the Alaska User Training (AUT) during the winter of 2016, ensuring that the content covered all the objectives of A-100 Basic Aviation Safety while maintaining specific aviation safety concerns for flight on the Tongass and Chugach forests.

The Regional Aviation Safety Manager (Gary Boyd) and the National Aviation Training Program Manager (Donna Kreiensieck) have thoroughly reviewed the Alaska User Training (AUT) instructor guide and course materials in comparison to A-100 Basic Aviation Safety.

The Alaska User Training (AUT) was presented in Juneau, AK on April 26, 2016 at the regional office to an audience of approximately 50 students. The course was evaluated and determined to be of extremely high quality and relevant to the participants and the mission of the region.

The Forest Service Aviation Training Program Manager determines course equivalencies for the Forest Service. (Ref: IAT Guide 2014 p. 2)

Determination: Alaska User Training (AUT) meets the objectives, content and intent of A-100 Basic Aviation Safety. The USFS Aviation Training Program Manager has determined that Alaska User Training (AUT) is equivalent to A-100 Basic Aviation Safety.

Therefore, all Forest Service personnel completing Alaska User Training (AUT) have met any requirement for A-100 Basic Aviation Safety as stated in the Interagency Aviation Training Guide.

Attachment:

Alaska User Training – A-100 Basic Aviation Safety Equivalency Report

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