



## **Global Session**

Friday, 01 November 2019

## **Statement**

# **International Fire Aviation Working Group (IFAWG)**



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- The International Fire Aviation Working Group (IFAWG) aims to ensure that aviation provides effective support for fire management by improving the safety and effectiveness of aerial means through sharing of information, experience and resources.
- The IFAWG operates as a Working Group of the UNISDR Wildland Fire Advisory Group (WFAG)
- Through the International Wildfire Preparedness Mechanism (IWPM) IFAWG is a Voluntary Commitment to the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

## IFAWG observations (i):

- **Safety**

Aerial firefighting still experiences a high frequency of safety incidents. Improving the safety of aviation operations remains the highest priority.

- **Appropriate investment in aerial means**

There continues to be a need to properly identify the net benefit of using aircraft.

- **Effective application of aerial means**

Many jurisdictions make very effective use of aviation. However, the wildland fire community is aware of instances where aerial means have been applied inappropriately or inefficiently.

## IFAWG observations (ii):

- **Sharing of aviation resources**

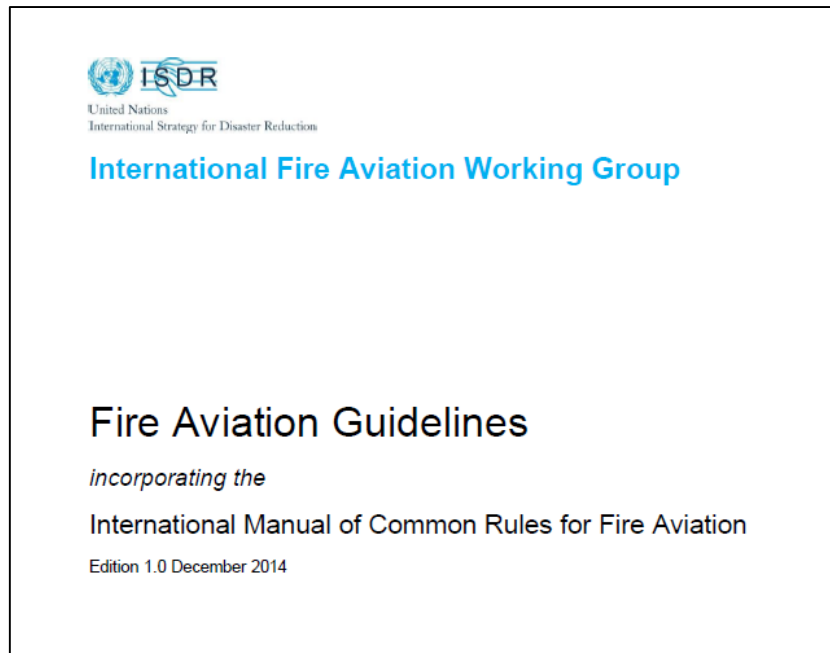
Transboundary sharing of aerial resources offers potential to generate economic benefits, makes efficient use of resources and provides jurisdictions with capacity to respond to situations beyond their normal means.

- **Remotely Piloted Aircraft** (*“Drones, RPA, UAV etc ”*)

Capabilities and accessibility of Remotely Piloted Aircraft have increased significantly. There are many possibilities for further development.

On the other hand, unauthorized or unwanted presence of RPA poses significant risks. Appropriate regulation and education is required.

- A major project for the IFAWG has been the development of the voluntary **International Fire Aviation Guidelines**, incorporating an *International Manual of Common Rules for Fire Aviation*



## The voluntary International Fire Aviation Guidelines aim primarily to:

- Assist adopting states to develop and manage appropriate, effective, high-quality aviation capabilities by providing **guidance in regard to recommended minimum standards and appropriate best-practices**
- Enhance the opportunities for **transboundary cooperation through the sharing of aviation capabilities** between states or jurisdictions by
  - **Developing common standards and common operating practices** for fire aviation that will enhance inter-operability and operational safety; and
  - **Providing recommended procedures and supporting information for effective sharing of fire aviation resources.**

# International Fire Aviation Guidelines

- The current version of the **International Fire Aviation Guidelines** is available online. Comments are welcome.
- Contributions to further development of the guidelines are invited and very welcome!



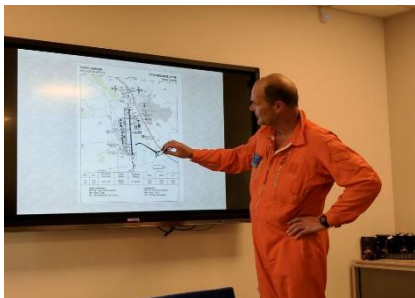
<http://www.ifawg.org/>

<http://gfmc.online/iwpm/ifawg.html>

## Other activities:

### IFAWG last met formally in Nimes, France October 2017:

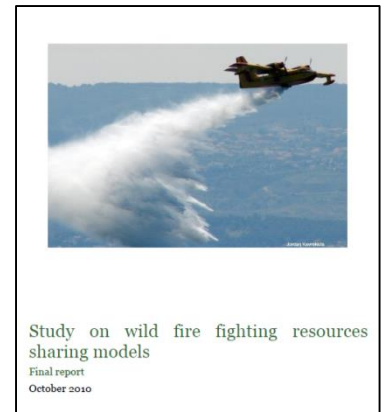
- Introduced and monitored **Interoperability Exercises**
- **Interoperability Workshop (IOW)** – Statement
  - Need for enhancing interoperability in AFF
  - Need for bilateral and multilateral agreements
  - Call for supranational funding and support





## Other activities & progress

- On behalf of the European Commission IFAWG members and GFMC contributed and continue to contribute to
  - Study on Wildfire Fighting Resources Sharing Models (2010)
  - Study on Currently Available Aerial Forest Fire Fighting Assets (2018)
  - Development of a concept for a Network of European Hubs for Civil Protection and Crisis Management, with pilot hub *Wildfire Risk Management* (2019-2020)



## IFAWG proposes: (i):

- Continue development of methodologies and procedures to ensure that aerial means, including remotely piloted aircraft, are **safely** applied as part of **an integrated approach to fire and forest management**, and are deployed according to assessed risk and **sound economic principles**.
- Continue to develop frameworks for **assessment of the economic benefits and costs** of using aviation means.
- Continue development and implementation of **transboundary resource sharing agreements**, and that agreements on international cooperation incorporate the International **Fire Aviation Guidelines** where appropriate.



## IFAWG proposes (ii):

- Promotion of **the voluntary adoption of the International Fire Aviation Guidelines** for independent endorsement and application by operators and agencies, or within the framework of bi-lateral and multi-lateral agreements.
- **Continued collaboration to further develop** the voluntary **International Fire Aviation Guidelines**.
- Support for the establishment of an international repository for **information regarding aviation accidents and incidents** related to fire and emergency management operations.
- Encourage aviation regulatory authorities to ensure that **regulation of remotely piloted aircraft (RPA) is contemporary**, and
  - enables **effective application** and development of RPA by fire and emergency management agencies; and
  - **mitigates the risks** to fire and emergency operations from **unwanted or unauthorised use of RPA**.



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# Thanks for Your Attention