

Colorado Firefighting Air Corps

2014 Interim Guidelines

Senate Bill 13-245 created the Colorado Firefighting Air Corps (CFAC) under the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC). Senate Bill 14-164 authorized DFPC to purchase, lease, and contract aviation resources beginning July 1, 2014. The CFAC (Ref: CRS 24-33.5-1228) was authorized to assist local jurisdictions with initial attack wildland fire response on state and private lands within the state of Colorado. Any County Sheriff, municipal fire department, or fire protection district within Colorado may request aviation resources as the official Requesting Agency, utilizing ordering procedures defined in the County Annual Operating Plan (AOP). DFPC will pay the cost of eligible wildland firefighting aviation resources on behalf of the Requesting Agency, in accordance with the following guidelines, and to the extent that funding is available.

INITIAL RESOURCE USE	
Guidelines	Follow current Wildfire Emergency Response Fund (WERF) Guidelines.
	Requesting Agency orders appropriate kind and type of resources(s).
Eligible Resources	Type 1 Helicopters
	Type 2 Helicopters
	Type 3 Helicopters
	Single Engine Air Tankers (SEATs)
	Large Air Tankers (LATs)
	Very Large Air Tankers (VLATs) ¹
	Handcrew
Funding Process	Requesting Agency submits request for reimbursement to DFPC.
	Reimbursed in accordance with current WERF Guidelines.

¹ Any request for a Very Large Air Tanker (VLAT) must be approved by the DFPC Deputy Chief of Operations or his/her designee prior to use.

RESOURCE USE BEYOND WERF	
Guidelines	Aviation suppression resources will be ordered through the Interagency Dispatch Centers.
	The on-call DFPC Regional FMO must be notified via the State Emergency Operations Line (303-279-8855) if additional aviation resources are ordered beyond WERF.
	Requesting Agency orders appropriate kind and type of resource(s). Consult the County Annual Operating Plan (AOP) for the local, state, and interagency dispatch procedures to order aviation resources.
	Multiple fixed and rotor wing resources (if needed) can be funded for additional use on the same incident.
	The Closest Forces concept will be utilized meaning that the closest available resource of the Type and Kind requested will be dispatched to the incident. The CFAC program will cover eligible costs regardless of whether the aircraft is a state or federally-managed resource.
	DFPC funding support can be utilized on state and private land fires, and for fires that occur in mutual aid areas as defined in the County AOP.

	All state-contract SEATs and helicopters will be OAS/USFS carded and interagency compliant, and all crews will have required NWCG qualifications.
Eligible Resources	Type 2 Helicopter flight and pilot time (state or federal)
	Type 3 Helicopter flight and pilot time (state or federal)
	Helitack Personnel
	Helicopter chase, support, and fuel vehicles
	Single Engine Air Tankers – SEATs (state or federal)
	Pre-positioning and temporary relocation of State aircraft, as approved by the DFPC Deputy Section Chief of Operations or their designee.
Ineligible Resources	Type 1 Helicopters ²
	Large Air Tankers (LATs) ²
	Very Large Air Tankers (VLATs) ²
	Aerial Supervision Platforms [Unless required by Interagency Standards/Mob Guide and fire becomes state-responsibility (EFF or other funding mechanisms)]
Funding Process ³	DFPC (CFAC funds) will pay for continued resource use until midnight (2400 hours) on the first calendar day of incident operations, contingent on available funding.
	Funding support for the second calendar day of incident operations may be approved by the DFPC Regional FMO, based on factors such as fire potential, values at risk, defined mutual aid periods, boundary line fires, availability of funds, etc.
	If a fire becomes state-responsibility (EFF or other funding mechanisms), charges for aircraft will be switched from DFPC-CFAC funding to incident funding.

² The use of these resources may be reimbursed in accordance with the current Wildfire Emergency Response Fund (WERF) Guidelines.

³ There are often additional costs associated with the use of aircraft that may be billed to the Requesting Agency.

Funding Requests and Notifications

- DFPC has been tasked by the Colorado State Legislature to administer and manage this program. It is critical that DFPC receives notification of any and all aviation funding support requests to maintain an accurate balance for the fund.
- The Requesting Agency must notify the DFPC of each aviation funding request (WERF reimbursement or CFAC payment). Notifications and requests should be emailed to DFPC at firebill@cdfpc.org within 7 days of resource use and include the following information:
 - Who requested the resource (Sheriff, fire chief, etc.);
 - Fire Name;
 - Incident Number (whenever available);
 - Resource Name(s);
 - Date of Use; and
 - Copies of Resource Orders (whenever available).

Aircraft Rates

If a local Requesting Agency utilizes DFPC-CFAC aircraft on a local-managed fire beyond the eligibility period, the following hourly rates may be charged to the Requesting Agency:

Type 2 Helicopter - \$1,847 per hour

Type 3 Helicopter - \$1,050 per hour (Bell 206 L4/Designated Home Base: Montrose)

Type 3 Helicopter - \$1,248 per hour (AStarB3/Designated Home Base: Alamosa)

Single Engine Air Tanker - \$2,250 per hour

Multi-Mission Aircraft (MMA)

Once this resource is stood up and available, requests from a local Requesting Agency for detection, remote sensing, or persistent surveillance flights will be made through the State Emergency Operations Line (303-279-8855). Such missions will be flown based on aircraft availability, and multiple requests will be prioritized based upon risk.

The cost for detection, remote sensing, or persistent surveillance flights for wildfire purposes requested by a local Requesting Agency shall be borne by DFPC-CFAC funds.

Questions concerning this guidance or the CFAC program should be directed to:

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