

**PROCEDURE NO. 008.K: Public Use Aircraft  
Operations (PRESSLER) (8100)**  
**(No. 54 December 2009)**

**(8100)**

**CAL FIRE Helicopter or Air Tactical Request for Non-State Incident**

(See 8314.5 “Public Use Aircraft Operations (Pressler)”):

Effective April 25, 1995, FAA Advisory Circular 00-1.1 defines the uses of “non-FAA certified” aircraft. This regulation requires special consideration of the use of CAL FIRE helicopters and air tactical aircraft on incidents which involves the recovery of operating costs or reimbursement for aircraft operations.

If there are any doubts as to whether or not an aircraft operation falls under the Public Law 103.411, check with the Unit Duty Chief, who will verify with the Region Duty Chief. The pilot of the aircraft will have final say as to whether or not he/she can do the mission and must have personal knowledge that the Incident Aircraft Certification has been completed for that day’s operations. Also, if a pilot receives a request for a flight without a certification and a certification is needed, he/she can request the flight to be certified before lift-off occurs.

**Any CC**

1. Anytime a CAL FIRE owned helicopter or airtactical ship is requested, diverted or assigned by a non-state agency where reimbursement to CAL FIRE may occur,

**OR**

2. Any time CAL FIRE requests, diverts or assigns a “non FAA certificated” public aircraft (See 8300 Exhibit, “Public Use Aircraft”) to an incident where CAL FIRE will reimburse the non-state agency, the ordering ECC must provide the following:
  - a) Receive and document verbal certification on Incident Aircraft Certification Form.
  - b) The following is the minimum information needed for a verbal certification:
    - i) There is a significant and immediate threat to life, property or natural resources.
    - ii) No private operator is reasonably available with the needed capabilities.
    - iii) Date, time, name, title and agency of certifying person.
  - c) Notify the requesting agency that written certification must be received on the Incident Aircraft Certification Form as soon as possible, but no later than noon the next day. The form may be submitted via a fax, with the original mailed to the responsible ECC. At a minimum, the following items must be addressed:

- i) Date of the operation/incident.
  - ii) Flight operations conducted.
  - iii) Significant or imminent threat.
  - iv) Availability of private sector services.
  - v) Date, time, name, title and agency of certifying person.
- d) ECC personnel will receive the written certification, verify that it is complete and forward a copy to the appropriate helitack base or air attack base. The original copy of the certification is to be retained by the responsible ECC.
- e) Recertification of mission requirements and the private sector non-availability will be required for each CAL FIRE helicopter or air attack prior to lift off each day. It is suggested that re-certification be done by the Incident Commander or appropriate incident staff and forwarded to the ECC for processing as described in step c above.

[Next Procedure](#)

[Handbook Table of Contents](#)

[Forms or Form Samples](#)