

AIRCRAFT DISPATCHING
(Revised June 2004)

8333

BASE DISPATCH PROCEDURES
(No. 16 September 2004)

8333.1

Dispatching procedures will vary from base to base depending upon communications and facility variations and procedural agreements between bases and ECCs. The specific dispatch procedures for each base shall be included in the operating plan of each base.

- Specific dispatching procedures should be included in the base operating plan for each bases.
- Pilots and ground support personnel must be trained in the dispatch procedures to be used.

Aircraft dispatched to a mission or incident should have the following information. CAL FIRE Form FC-106 (Information for Air tanker Manager and Pilot) is designed for recording dispatch information for pilots and base managers.

- Dispatch time and date.
- Order number.
- Type(s) of aircraft / resources requested.
- Response area or magnetic course and distance.
- General geographical area.
- Radio frequencies and contacts.
- Flight hazards in the area (incident).
- Other aircraft responding.
- Special instructions or conditions affecting flight.
- Section, township and range (and base/meridian if different from that in which the base is located) for plotting the flight coordinates at the base.
- GPS navigation coordinates.

The base timekeeper or responding helitack supervisor will calculate the estimated en route/arrival time to the destination and advise the dispatching ECC of the estimated time of arrival (ETA) after takeoff.

At the end of each day, the base will report to the ECC, the status of all aircraft on base.

INITIAL ATTACK

8333.2

(Revised September 2001)

All aircraft will be dispatched by the closest resource concept as exists in current interagency agreements. To determine the closest bases/resources the CAN or MIRPS programs will be utilized.

During normal operations, each unit ECC will directly dispatch the aircraft to fires occurring within their Unit. Any base (air attack or helitack) that has an initial attack area within a unit may be directly dispatched within that bases initial attack area. If aircraft are not on base or are otherwise unavailable, the request will go to the region CC following Command and Control HB 8100 [Procedure No. 320](#).

All agency specific aircraft at each base will be dispatched to that agencies incident first except when the incident requests a specific ICS type aircraft that that agency cannot fill, aircraft operating restrictions exist at the assigned airtanker base or there is a specific request by the agency with dispatching authority.

EXTENDED ATTACK AND MAJOR INCIDENTS

8333.3

(No.16 September 2004)

At no time will a request number be used for more than one aircraft at one time or be re-utilized once the original aircraft assigned to that number is released. If an aircraft is reassigned to an incident it will be assigned a new request number.

Units will release all fixed wing aircraft at the conclusion of air operations each day and shall place aircraft request(s) by 1900 hours for the next day's operations. Every effort will be made to give department air tankers and air attack aircraft adequate time (30-45 minutes maximum) to return to their assigned bases.

Units may keep aircraft and crews assigned to an air base closer to the incident if:

1. It does not appear that there is reasonable time for the return flight back to their assigned base (greater than 45 minutes).
2. That there is an early start time for the following day.

Department air tankers and air attack aircraft **shall** be released from an incident with adequate time for the return flight to their assigned base, if:

1. A relief pilot swap is necessary for the next day or
2. Maintenance needs of the aircraft requires it.

Rotary wing aircraft and CWN fixed wing aircraft will normally remain assigned to an incident until released by the incident.

1. New request numbers, for the following days operations, will be relayed via normal ordering procedures.
2. The Region CC is responsible for negotiating with the protection unit to identify how many of the assigned airtankers are available for initial attack. The Region CC will then notify the unit of the quantity of airtankers assigned to each incident.

The Headquarters Duty Chief will be notified whenever four airtankers (including helitankers) are assigned to an incident. Requests for more than four airtankers/helitankers must be approved by the Headquarters Duty Chief.

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