



National Resource Sharing Centre

Air Operations Manager

Functional Area

Aviation

Core Capability Area

IMT

Role Summary

The air operations manager provides overall coordination of more complex aerial operations and manages the air operations unit for the response to an incident or several incidents.*

The air operations manager is the most senior aviation officer at the incident and is responsible for:

- providing the IMT with specialist advice on the capability, use and management of aircraft resources.
- planning and preparation of the air operations plan in collaboration with the operations and planning sections of the IMT
- ensuring aerial operations missions are conducted in a safe, effective, and efficient way and comply with legislation, civil aviation regulations and agency policy and procedures.
- supervising the work of personnel within the air operations unit.

The air operations manager normally operates from the Incident Control Centre (ICC) where the IMT is located. Alternatively, where the air operations manager is operating across several incidents, they may locate at the Regional Control Centre (RCC).

* These missions may involve fire response, however in the interest of maintaining an inclusive, all-hazards approach, it is necessary to emphasise the vital role that aviation positions such as these can play in combatting severe weather events of all kinds. It is also necessary to highlight the contemporary emerging shift in staffing to rely on those personnel from supporting agencies who may not have an express need to hold any fire training. In this way, personnel from wider supporting agencies can engage in key roles that allow them to use their expertise where it is most beneficial.

Key duties

The air operations manager:

- establishes and manages the air operations unit.
- ensures the safety and effectiveness of air operations.
- ensures any necessary reporting of aviation incidents as per agency and CASA regulations.
- develops aerial operations strategies in collaboration with operations section.

- develops and maintains the air operations plan in consultation with the operations officer and planning officer.
- manages the implementation of the air operations plan.
- reports on the effectiveness of aerial operations missions
- establishes systems for the safety and security of air operations provides specialist aviation advice to the IMT.

Reporting Arrangements

Reports to

The operations officer.

Direct reports

The air operations manager supervises two groups within the air operations unit:

- A tactical group that implements aerial operations missions and is normally led by an air attack supervisor.
- A support group that coordinates the aircraft and provides services in support of the aerial operations missions, led by the aircraft officer.

Where the air operations manager position is not filled, the air attack supervisor and the aircraft officer report directly to the operations officer.

Role Considerations

An air operations manager must hold a statement of attainment in:

- PUAFIR004 Manage complex aerial operations for an incident (40 hrs)
- 22459VIC – Course in the Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System (AIIMS) (16 hrs)
- 22541VIC – Course in Basic Wildfire Awareness (or equivalent). (6hrs)

AFAC EMPS Credentials

The following AFAC EMPS credentials are relevant to this role:

- PUAFIR004 Manage complex aerial operations for an incident.
- 22459VIC – Course in the Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System (AIIMS)
- 22541VIC – Course in Basic wildfire awareness (or equivalent).

Applicants must be able to provide documented evidence to demonstrate that he or she:

- Has committed to the EMPS Code of Ethics 2017
- Is endorsed by their agency as an Air Operations Manager
- Has at least two years' experience as an Air Operations Manager
- Has at least one operational season's experience as an Air Operations Manager without mentoring or supervision.
- Is supported by their home agency or jurisdiction Fitness or Other Standards

Fitness or Other Standards

The following fitness or other standards are applied by AFAC member agencies to persons undertaking this role:

- Authorisation to perform this role is subject to an agency endorsement period of 5 years.

Please note, this role type has been developed in tandem with the Fire and Emergency Aviation Training and Assessment Framework (2020), therefore references will focus on fire response. However, in the interests of pursuing an 'all hazards' approach to incident management, it is necessary to highlight that the above is not an exhaustive list, and personnel may undertake these duties in responding to events entirely separate from fire response. To this end, key duties and training may vary depending on unique incidents that these resources are deployed in response to.

Additionally, it is necessary to note that there may arise a need for personnel with experience in a variety of aircraft and qualifications or awareness that are not listed within the NPC. Examples include remotely piloted aircraft systems (RPAS) and associated skills and experience such as Remote Pilots Licences (RePL), extended visual line of sight (EVLOS), and night visual line of sight (NVLOS).

In so doing, this outcome aims to reflect the descriptive nature of National Position Catalogue templates, serving as a framework from which agencies can springboard into specific events and responses.

References

- *Fire and Emergency Aviation Training and Assessment Framework (2020)*
- *EMPS Professional Standards: Registered Air Operations Manager (2021)*