



National Resource Sharing Centre

State air desk operator

Functional Area

Aviation

Core Capability Area

Operations

Role Summary

The state air desk operator dispatches aircraft and specialist aviation personnel and equipment to incidents within the state or territory.

The aircraft include those contracted by the NAFC and aircraft directly acquired by the state or territory.

Depending upon the type of incident, the aircraft may be involved in a range of aerial operations including aerial fire detection and suppression, intelligence collection, aerial incendiary operations, helicopter insertion into remote areas and general transport of people and equipment.*

The state air desk operator works in accordance with state or territory operating procedures.

* 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 state air desk operator:

- processes requests for aviation resources
- dispatches aviation resources
- processes requests to retain or release aircraft.
- conducts flight following as required.
- processes information affecting aviation resource management.
- reports aircraft accidents, incidents and occurrences.

Reporting Arrangements

Reports to

State air operations coordinator

Direct reports

No direct reports.

Role Considerations

A state air desk operator must hold a statement of attainment in:

- PUAFIRO11 Operate state air desk
- 22459VIC Course in the Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System (AIIMS)
- 22541VIC Course in Basic Wildfire Awareness (or equivalent).

AFAC EMPS Credentials

The following AFAC EMPS credentials are relevant to this role:

- None

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)