

Annual Aviation Site Visit and Evaluation Process

Aviation Safety's four key components of Policy, Risk Management, Assurance and Promotion are the fundamental areas which will be evaluated. The intent is to evaluate the general readiness of aviation personnel, leadership, training, planning, and budget, as well as to identify and correct any safety or operational deficiencies related to aviation operations. It should be stressed that the evaluations are meant to be proactive part of the continuous improvement process as well as meeting minimum standards identified in the Departmental Manual (DM) 350-353, Indian Affairs Manual (IAM) 57 chapter 2, BIA National Aviation Plan, National Wildfire Coordinating Group Standards for Helicopter Operations (NSHO)(PMS-510) Appendix E, NWCG Standards for Airtanker Base Operations (NSABO)(PMS-508) Appendix M and NWCG Standards for Aerial Supervision (NSAS)(PMS-505). NWCG Standards for Fire Uncrewed Aircraft Systems Operations (PMS-515).

Evaluations will include discussions and interviews that maintain a high level of safety and management of daily risk. It is recommended that each office review past evaluations and corrective action plans prior to the visit in preparation to discuss findings, corrective actions, and barriers to improvements.

Teams of three to five aviation and operations specialists will conduct the site visits. Each staff member will focus on their subject matter expertise, including safety, operations, administration and management for fixed wing, and/or helicopter.

Each visit will consist of an in-briefing and closeout with fire and aviation management personnel. The evaluation team will follow up with written documentation provided to the appropriate line officer. Follow-up conversations, either formal or informal, will be scheduled to ensure corrective action plans have been created and implemented to rectify deficiencies, as needed.