



4 CORPORATE WAY
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ADVANCED TRAINING ACADEMY

Helicopter Firefighting/Forestry Tactics and Mountain Flying

COURSE: 10 Hrs. Ground Instruction
5-7 Hrs. Flight Instruction

This course is designed to introduce and train to an evaluation standard the commercially rated pilot that has met or is close to the flight hour requirements of the USFS/DOI. Knowledge of wildland firefighting and proficiency within wildland firefighting tactics and missions gives a pilot a head start for a professional approach to operating safely, efficiently, effectively with respect to all USDA/USDI special missions in this highly competitive community. Previous experience in VTR and/or external load operations is required.

The Ground and Flight portions of the syllabus will take the student from the beginning planning stages of the mission which will include performance planning for the specific mission flight environment utilizing a "load calculation" form designed for HHI and similar to the USFS 5700-17. The pre-flight process will begin with the aircraft being utilized for the mission and will



progress to the equipment required for the mission including lines, waterbuckets, nets, swivels, and all gear required to complete the mission. The flight phase begins from takeoff with an external load progressing to the reconnaissance phase of the mission to include the approach and departure routes for a safe water/retardant pickup and delivery. Power management, decision making, and risk mitigation will be stressed during each phase of flight. Initial Attack tactics will include water dropping techniques to communication

with ground personnel. Safety concerns and proper decision making will be at the forefront of each pass. An understanding of fire behavior has been identified by the government as an important piece of the pie for a successful Initial Attack pilot and throughout the ground academic portion of the course the student will be introduced and trained to government initial entry standards. For the pilot to succeed from the start it is important to have an understanding of the government's Incident Command System from helibase personnel to the understanding of safe operations in the Fire Traffic Area. In addition to the fire fighting, initial attack training the student will be introduced to the mountain flying environment and the proven flight techniques while operating in a high density altitude arena with typical mountainous terrain.

Our experienced skilled instructors will use power point presentations, video, printed materials, lecture, and hands on training throughout the ground academics portion. The flight



portion will take place in the high density altitude mountainous environment surrounding Missoula, Montana enabling the training to be as effective as possible from takeoff to landing. Each student will advance throughout the curriculum at a pace that is challenging but not overwhelming. With the successful completion of the course, the student will have been trained to a completion standard which will meet or exceed the government agency's requirements in preparation for eligibility as a candidate for Fire Suppression (Helitack) and Retardant/Water Dropping missions.

HHI is located in Missoula, Montana, Headquarters for the U.S. Forest Service Northern Region and home of the USFS Aerial Fire Depot Smokejumper Center, a community of 70,000 at an elevation of 3220' msl. surrounded by mountainous terrain with peaks in excess of 9,000' msl. Our training facility is conveniently located at Missoula International Airport. Our 8,000 sq. ft. hangar and our 2800 sq. ft. of classroom space offer students a comfortable, clean and professional environment. HHI will utilize a late model 1991 Bell 206BIII Jet Ranger that is currently maintained under FAR 135 maintenance standards and is also carded for USFS/DOI operations.