



4 CORPORATE WAY
MISSOULA, MONTANA 59808

PHONE: 406-544-0402
FAX: 406-728-2943
HANGAR: 406-721-0402

ADVANCED TRAINING ACADEMY

USFS Standards/Utility VTR COURSE:

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



This course is designed specifically to train companies, state agencies, federal agencies, militaries and individual pilots in preparation for application for Interagency Carding and Flight evaluation for the VTR mission with the USFS/DOI. The Vertical Reference mission is one that allows a load to be delivered/received externally to an area that would not be accessible by other means. It allows the pilot a greater margin of control with more accuracy while keeping the helicopter above all obstacles, often times allowing the aircraft to remain into the

wind. The mission has become a tool in wildland fire fighting, forestry, construction, resource exploration, logging, seismic and many other arenas to complete or accomplish a job more effectively, safely, and efficiently.

The course will provide instruction to the commercially rated helicopter pilot with the required basic knowledge through a combination of ground instruction and flight instruction. Ground Instruction will consist of training in preflight of aircraft and equipment (lines, remote hook, swivel, nets, etc.), seating position, load description, delivery area, mission parameters (This part of the course is catered to the client's needs, i.e.; USFS fire fighting missions including fire behavior and basic fire tactics.) performance planning, site picture (scan, depth perception, situational awareness, and focus), and common hazards.

The USFS and DOI utilize for evaluation purposes a document known as the Interagency Helicopter Practical Test Standards. This course is designed to train to a standard that will meet and exceed the requirements set forth in the government's guidelines. The ground and flight portions will begin with the performance planning phase which will include planning for the specific mission flight environment utilizing the "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. The flight phase begins from takeoff with an external load utilizing VTR techniques progressing to the reconnaissance phase of the mission to include the approach and departure routes for a safe mission completion. The training pace will be aggressive but not overwhelming. The initial flight will utilize a 100' length longline but will progress to a 150' length line on the second flight. From the

beginning, load centering techniques will be practiced leading to load pickup, enroute, approach and delivery techniques to an open field. Once the student's proficiency level begins to improve the flight environment will move to typical mountainous terrain to include typical terrain contour flying to confined areas, pinnacles, and ridgelines. Proven wind determination methods will be discussed and practiced in the mountain flying environment. The final phase of



the course will involve the slalom course designed by HHI ATA which is a demanding task utilizing VTR techniques but when accomplished to an evaluation standard will give the student the overwhelming feeling of mission proficiency. With the successful completion of the course, the student will have been trained to a completion standard which will meet or exceed the government agencies' requirements in preparation for eligibility as a candidate for a Vertical Reference flight evaluation by the USFS/DOI.

Our experienced skilled instructors will use power point presentations, video, printed materials, lecture, and hands-on equipment throughout the ground academics portion. Fire fighting tactics to include water bucket operations (long line or "belly hook") can also be included at the customers' request.

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.