

NOTES FOR WORKING WITH MNICS AVIATION RESOURCES

Scope

All CAP ES/HS missions should be conducted in accordance with the MNICS air operations plan. This assumes every mission is potentially a multi-agency mission. This treatment will enhance safety because any mission could unexpectedly involve the air resources of other organizations. For example, the news media might be flying over an actual aircraft crash site that we are investigating as an ELT.

MNICS is centered on wild-land fire suppression missions, but the MNICS “All-risk” aviation operations plan spans other air mission types including search and rescue. The MNICS Air Operations Working Team, which created this plan, has included representation from the following organizations:

- Minnesota Wing Civil Air Patrol
- Army National Guard
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Bureau of Indian Affairs, US Dept. of the Interior
- National Park Service, US Dept. of the Interior
- US Forest Service, US Dept. of Agriculture
- Minnesota State Patrol, Minnesota State Dept. of Public Safety
- Minnesota State Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- Minnesota State Dept. of Transportation
- Sheriff’s Association
- Manitoba Ministry of Natural Resources
- Various news media outlets (i.e. with news helicopters)
- Various emergency medical services (including Life Flight, North Memorial, and St. Mary’s)

MNICS Aviation Frequencies and Procedures

1. Initial Response (“Initial Attack”)

All aircraft will continuously monitor **122.750 MHz** (or 122.925 MHz for wild-land fires). Announce direction of entry into the incident when **10 miles out**. Other aircraft working at the scene will inform incoming aircraft of their presence, position, mission, and whether or not an Air Tactical Group Supervisor (ATGS) is functioning yet.

The first aircraft onto the scene will normally assume the role of “Air Tactical Group Supervisor” (ATGS) until formally handing off the responsibility or leaving the scene. ATGS is addressed with the callsign “Air Attack”. **The ATGS will manage all aviation asset coordination, separation, and safety.**

Change frequency if directed to do so by ATGS. 122.9 MHz may be used for air-to-air briefings if 122.750 or 122.925 is too busy.

Use airport CTAF frequencies when in proximity to airports.

Announce departure from scene.

Frequency recap for initial response:

“All Risk” Initial Response Plan

(i.e. missions other than wild-land fire suppression)

122.750 MHz Air to air tactical
(aviation band)

122.900 MHz Air to air briefings if 122.750 is too busy
(aviation band)

Wild-land Fire Initial Response Plan

122.925 MHz Air to air tactical
(aviation band)

122.900 MHz Air to air briefings if 122.975 is too busy
(aviation band)

2. Complex Missions

The Air Tactical Group Supervisor and/or the Air Support Group Supervisor will decide when and if to use the color-named communications plans. The plans allow simultaneous separate missions (or geographic divisions) to communicate without conflicting.

Yellow Plan

122.975 MHz (aviation band)	Air to air tactical
123.050 MHz (aviation band)	Air to ground (helibase) – if base is so equipped
170.000 MHz (CAP FM Ch 34)	Air to air briefings if 122.975 is too busy

Green Plan

123.025 MHz (aviation band)	Air to air tactical
123.075 MHz (aviation band)	Air to ground (helibase) – if base is so equipped
167.950 MHz (CAP FM Ch 35)	Air to air briefings if 123.025 is too busy

For both plans, 168.350 MHz (CAP FM Ch 41) is designated the ground to ground helibase-deck frequency.

Use airport CTAF frequencies when in proximity to airports.

DNR Flight following frequencies

172.375 MHz (CAP FM Ch 36)	MIFC Air Net Point-to-point
172.375R/170.425 MHz [tone] (CAP FM Ch 37)	MIFC Air Net East Repeater (Eveleth)
172.375R/170.425 MHz [tone] (CAP FM Ch 38)	MIFC Air Net West Repeater (Northome)
172.375R/170.425 MHz [tone] (CAP FM Ch 39)	MIFC Air Net South Repeater (Quadna)
168.650 MHz (CAP FM Ch 40)	Superior Dispatch

Other Frequencies

122.900 MHz (aviation band)	CTAF for air strips without other frequencies designated
122.925 MHz (aviation band)	Air to air and air to ground designated “natural resources frequency”
	- and -
	Air to air, Canadian border area , two miles either side of border
123.975 MHz (aviation band)	Air to ground – air tanker base operations within 10 miles of base