

HELICOPTER WATER POINT

SIZE-UP

- Safe landing & departure path (into the wind with no obstacles or wires)
- Flat terrain (100 foot diameter)
- 20' X 20' level landing pad in the center
- Accessible to engine & fuel truck
- Secure from pedestrians or vehicle traffic
- Adequate water supply (minimum 400 GPM)

ACTIONS

- Safety briefing
- Secure all loose items in landing area, including dust abatement
- Ensure Wildland PPE is on and secured (especially eye protection)
- Helmets secured with chin straps – unless filling buckets from hose
- Spot engine 100 feet from landing pad with water supply
- Set up protection line / dust abatement line
- Set up water point station (see diagram)
- Prepare wind indicator (flagging tape)
- Get aircraft number & radio frequency (confirm usually 5A or specific Air to Ground)
- Advise helicopter when water point is operational
- Obtain Kam Lock from helicopter

AIRCRAFT SAFETY

- Advise pilot of wind direction & speed
- Advise pilot of general & aerial hazards (wires & obstacles)
- Stay out of approach & departure path of helicopter
- Maintain eye contact with pilot
- Do not approach helicopter until instructed to do so by pilot or crew
- Do not approach helicopter from uphill or the rear
- Do not walk to the rear of the helicopter (past passenger doors)
- **Do Not Run** when approaching helicopter- **WALK**
- Place one foot on skid when filling

PUMP OPERATIONS

- Fold cam-lock under hose 3-4 feet from helicopter skid (do not take to shut off)
- Desired flow is 360 GPM at the cam lock (copter will have kam lock & shut-off)
- Pump 25 PSI per 100 feet length of 2 ½ inch hoses
- Add 20 PSI for the hose from the helicopter to the D-handled shut-off
(EP=25 PSI FL X length + 20 PSI for 50 feet of 2 ½ inch hose from shut-off to helicopter)
- Time flow with stopwatch. Pilot will indicate load size:
 - Full = 60 seconds
 - ¾ Full = 45 seconds
 - ½ Full = 30 seconds